

SHERIDAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

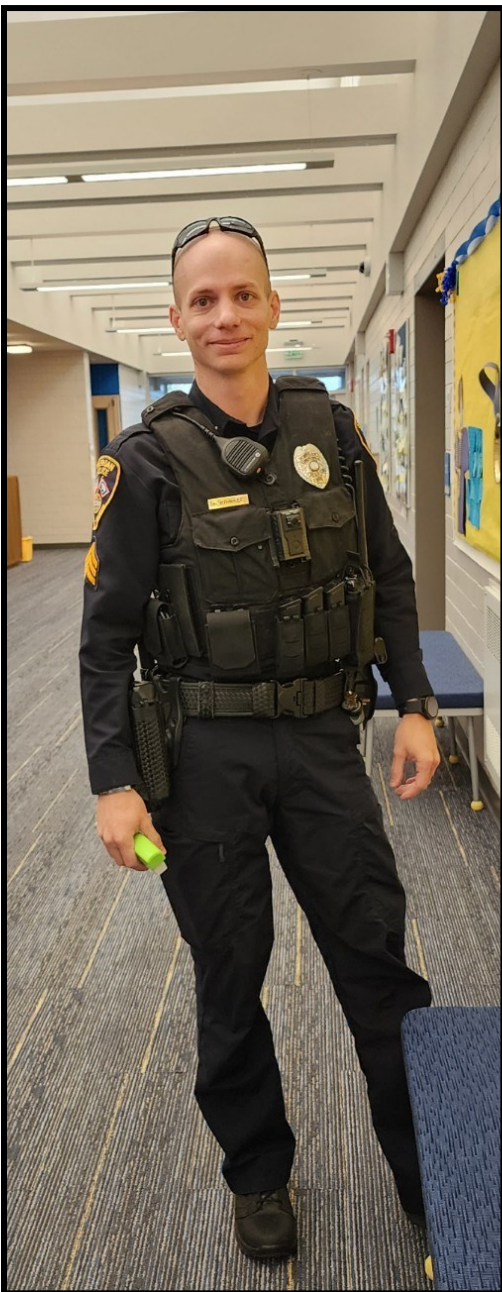


2023

Annual Report



Contents



4	Message from the Chief of Police
5	Department Mission Statement
6	Department Structure
7	2023 Staffing Levels
8	2023 Highlights
10	Future and Ongoing Projects
12	Deer Management
13	Cannabis in Wyoming
14	Mental Health Response
15	Community Relations
16	Patrol Operations
17	Patrol
18	Traffic Management - Accidents
19	Traffic Management - DWUI
20	Traffic Management - Traffic Stops
21	Use of Force
22	K-9 Program
23	Dispatch
24	Special Operations Bureau
25	Criminal Investigations Division
26	School Resource Officers
27	Community Service Officers
27	Department Hiring
28	Administrative Services Bureau
29	Records
30	Evidence
31	Crime Statistics

Message from the Chief of Police

In 2023, the Sheridan Police Department encountered both challenges and victories, marking another chapter in our ongoing commitment to serving our community. Despite hurdles, our dedication to our mission remains unwavering as we adapt and evolve to deliver top-notch services to the residents and visitors of Sheridan.

One significant focal point for us has been staffing. We observed a continued decline in the number of applicants for police officer positions compared to previous years, culminating in only one new hire in 2023. Throughout the year, we received a total of eight viable candidates, with merely three successfully passing initial testing. This resulted in four police officer vacancies and three dispatch vacancies by year-end. However, undeterred by these challenges, we are actively exploring innovative recruitment strategies to enhance interest not just in law enforcement careers but specifically in joining the ranks of the Sheridan Police Department. Anticipate the implementation of new recruitment initiatives slated for mid-2024 as we strive to bolster our staffing levels.

While external factors often influence our recruitment efforts, our commitment to providing a highly professional and well-equipped police force remains steadfast. Training has been a cornerstone of our efforts, ensuring our personnel are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for peak performance. Notably, the revitalization of our K9 program marked a significant achievement. Introducing two new narcotics detection dogs, Ava and Keva, we invested in five weeks of rigorous training in Gillette, Wyoming. This investment has yielded substantial returns, with our detection teams making numerous deployments in just their first four months of active duty, establishing themselves as indispensable assets in combating drugs within our community.

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of 2023, we extend our gratitude to you for taking the time to delve into our Annual Report. Your support and engagement are integral as we continue our unwavering dedication to serving the community we proudly call home.

Thank you,

Travis Koltiska
Chief of Police



Chief of Police, Travis Koltiska

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.

Builds 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

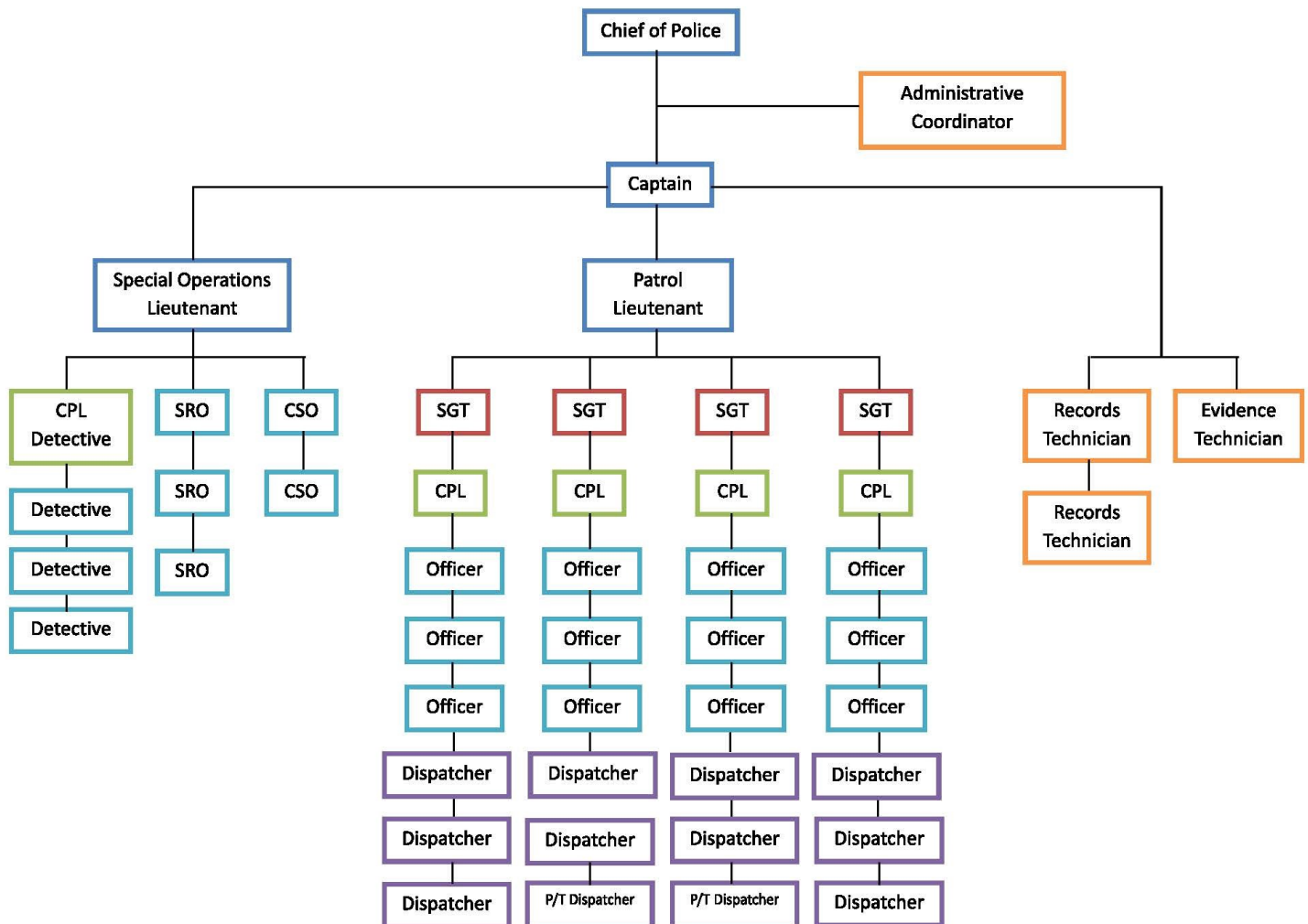
A positive attitude is a force multiplier and is contagious. We look for opportunities in every situation.

Promote Teamwork

Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore 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.



2023 Staffing Levels

2023 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

2023 Actual Staffing Levels			
	Sworn	Civilian	Total
Administration	4	1	5
Patrol	21	0	21
Detectives	2	0	2
Community Service Officers	0	2	2
Dispatch	0	9.5	9.5
Records	0	2	2
Evidence	0	1	1
Total Employees	27	15.5	42.5

	Actual					2023	Allocated 2023
	2008	2012	2016	2020	2023		
Sworn	31	29	27	26	27	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	42.5	48	

2023 Highlights

Promotions - Jonathan Snoozy was elevated from the rank of Corporal to Sergeant effective April 10, 2023. This promotion follows the retirement of Sergeant Rasmussen. With an illustrious tenure that commenced in 2014, Sergeant Snoozy has distinguished himself as a multifaceted asset within the department, serving as a K9 handler, Taser Instructor, TIPS Instructor, Field Training Officer, and fulfilling supervisory responsibilities with excellence. In tandem with Sergeant Snoozy's promotion, Officer Frank Ayers has been promoted to the position of Corporal following a rigorous selection process. Corporal Ayers, who joined the department in 2020, has proven his mettle as a Field Training Officer and is on track to become a Certified Firearms Instructor.



Communications System Coordinator - July 1, 2023, the department conducted an internal process within the communications center to designate the newly formed Communications System Coordinator position. Through a rigorous selection process, Becca Hartman has been selected for this role. While this position does not represent an additional slot within the center, it entails assigning existing communications technicians with coordination responsibilities concerning hardware, software, programs, vendors, and training for center personnel. The overarching objective is to consolidate several dispersed duties among both center personnel and patrol supervisors into this unified role.



The selection process entailed a competitive assessment among existing communications center personnel.

Report Management System Consolidation - The necessary upgrades to our Report Management System, Spillman, prompted the police department and sheriff's office to consolidate onto a shared server, marking a significant transition. Since 2007, both agencies had been operating on separate servers, posing hurdles to seamless information exchange. The consolidation onto a shared server not only facilitated streamlined operations but also led to enhanced information sharing capabilities. Furthermore, this consolidation resulted in an estimated annual savings of approximately \$40,000 in maintenance costs, ultimately benefiting our taxpayers.

Life-Saving Medal and Meritorious Service Awards - At the City Council meeting on February 21, 2023, Chief Koltiska bestowed a series of commendations upon police officers and communications technicians in recognition of their exemplary conduct during an incident on October 6, 2022. Sergeant Jerry Rasmussen was honored with the prestigious Life-Saving Medal for his heroic intervention, while Corporal Chase Philipp, Officer Ben Hawkins, Officer Alexander Murray, and Officer Zach Conlee, alongside Communications Technicians Kellen Phillips and Cheryl Strauch, were all lauded with Meritorious Service Commendations for their instrumental roles in responding to a critical vehicular roll-over involving five local teenagers.



2023 Highlights



Handgun Changes/Upgrades - In late fall, department officers underwent a comprehensive four-hour transition training session, shifting from the Glock 22, .40 S&W pistol to the new Glock 45, 9mm pistol equipped with a Trijicon SRO red dot sight. Despite challenging weather conditions, the department observed immediate improvements in proficiency scores with the new platform. Furthermore, additional training and hands-on experience with the red dot sight are anticipated to elevate proficiency standards across the department even further.

Active Shooter/Threat Training - The Sheridan Police Department has forged a strategic alliance with the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office to fortify our preparedness and coordination in addressing active shooter threats. Together, we are diligently training a cadre of active shooter instructors, unifying our approach to counter any potential threat effectively. Furthermore, once our instructors are fully trained, we will extend this crucial training opportunity to other law enforcement agencies in the area, fostering a collaborative effort to enhance community safety and security.



Master Plan - In conjunction with the City's strategic planning, command staff members of the department are working on the police department's master plan, a document that will guide police services to our community for years to come. This document utilizes information from the Community Needs Assessment and internal SWOT analysis to develop priorities and strategies to address crime and quality of life issues. Construction of the Master Plan began in late 2023, with expected completion in early 2024.

Future and Ongoing Projects

Employee Development - Ensuring the professional growth and advancement of every member of our department is a paramount commitment. Each employee is furnished with a tailored developmental plan, meticulously outlining training objectives and progression milestones within the department. This steadfast investment in our employees' development guarantees a continuous expansion of their skills and capabilities throughout their career journey, irrespective of their role, whether sworn officers, communication technicians, or civilian staff.

By offering additional training opportunities and assigning increased responsibilities, we actively cultivate leadership competencies among our team members. Leadership development is ingrained at every echelon of our organization, empowering our employees to explore inventive problem-solving approaches and devise innovative solutions to the challenges we encounter.

TIPS Training - TIPS, a renowned national organization, stands as a beacon for establishing best practices in alcohol service. Recognizing the paramount importance of responsible alcohol handling, the Sheridan Police Department has taken proactive measures by investing in the training of several officers as certified TIPS instructors. Through this initiative, the department is dedicated to equipping community members with the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure safe and responsible alcohol service within Sheridan.

Moreover, as part of our commitment to fostering a culture of responsible alcohol consumption, the Sheridan Police Department extends a generous offer of free training sessions to individuals within the community who are involved in serving alcohol. This invaluable opportunity not only promotes compliance with established regulations but also cultivates a shared responsibility among all stakeholders in upholding the highest standards of alcohol service excellence in Sheridan.

Safe Ride - The City of Sheridan TIPS Taxiprogram 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. The program continues to evolve to meet the needs of our community after 10 years. In April 2017, there was a name change and the funding solution had also changed. It is now called "Safe Ride".

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 a month at its conception. In 2023, there were an average of 274 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 2023, 11 liquor establishments used the program within the City Limits. There were 3,287 rides given to citizens in 2023. This program continues to grow to meet the demands of local citizens.



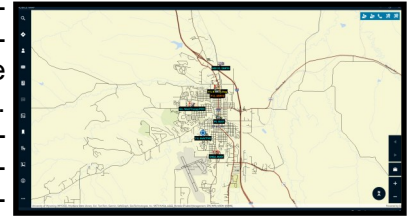
Future and Ongoing Projects

Traffic Safety Class - In 2022, the Sheridan Police Department began offering a free traffic safety class to the community. Community members can sign up for the class or be referred through local courts. These classes are eight hours, over four sessions, and held once a month. These classes both enhance traffic safety and provide for non-enforcement communication between community members and police officers. The classes have been well attended, averaging twelve (12) citizens per month. The department continued the program in 2023, with very positive feedback from the attendees.

Body Cameras - The department continues to reap great benefits from the body cameras we purchased and implemented in June of 2018. Whenever an officer contacts an individual during the performance of their duties, the interaction is recorded on the officer's body camera. These cameras have provided critical evidence in many criminal investigations and provided valuable feedback in regards to officer performance.

Media Relations - The department has persistently broadened the scope of information we share with our community by fostering strong relationships with our local media outlets. Regular appearances on the live radio program, Public Pulse, twice a month allow members of the department to discuss various issues encountered or highlight existing programs aimed at addressing community concerns. Chief Koltiska contributes to the Sheridan Press with a "Community Perspective" column several times a year, further enhancing our outreach efforts. Additionally, our social media presence continues to expand. These concerted efforts are geared towards facilitating seamless communication to and from our community members. Establishing and nurturing relationships with our media partners remains integral to achieving effective communication.

Mapping/GIS - The department's communications center hinges on a Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) program to dispatch first responders to service calls. However, callers frequently struggle to provide precise location details, necessitating the reliance on accurate Geographical Information System (GIS) and mapping programs to ensure prompt response to calls for assistance. Currently, the mapping program integrated with our CAD system is due for an update, which in turn necessitates upgrades to our GIS information. Despite delays in upgrading the GIS system, attributed to various factors, we are committed to completing this project by spring 2024.



Crisis Intervention Team Training - A police officer's initial encounter and interaction with someone in crisis is critical to a safe resolution to all. The model for crisis intervention is the creation of a team of officers training in these principles. For several years, various members of the department have attended classes on how to interact with individuals who are mentally ill, or otherwise in crisis. The crisis may stem from a mental illness, substance abuse, co-existing disorders or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Crisis Intervention Team Training provides responding officers with the tools, skills and resources to successfully resolve problems those in crisis are encountering. The majority of officers have been trained in CIT. In April of 2023, the department had seven more officers complete CIT training.



Deer Management

During the 2023 archery program, 50 people signed up to participate and 16 successfully harvested 25 deer. In 2022, 27 deer were harvested.

The 2023 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.

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

Whitetail Does

- 1 was taken in area 9
- 2 were taken in area 17
- 1 was taken in area 19
- 1 was taken in area 22
- 4 were taken in area 23
- 2 were taken in area 24

Total 11

Whitetail Bucks

- 4 were taken in area 7
- 1 was taken in area 11
- 1 was taken in area 19
- 1 was taken in area 23

Total 7

Whitetail Fawn

- 1 was taken in area 22

Total 1

Mule Deer Bucks

- 4 were taken in area 17
- 1 was taken in area 23

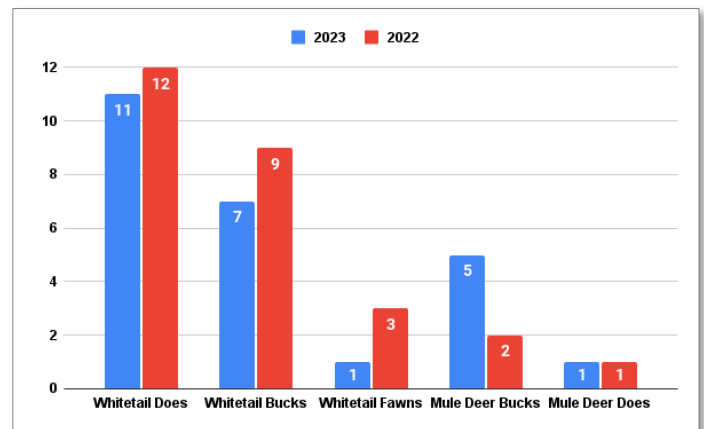
Total 5

Mule Deer Doe

- 1 was taken in area 23

Total 1

A total of 25 deer were taken in the City of Sheridan during the 2023 archery season. The participants in the program that I 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 2023 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 2024 calendar year in hopes that the opportunity will exist to safely conduct a harvest hunt.

Cannabis in Wyoming

**WY
WE
TALK**

Not everything about cannabis is chill.
**Talk about it.
Know the risks.**

WYWE TALK #WYWeTalk WYWETALK.ORG

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."



Mental Health Response

CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2023, the Sheridan Police Department responded to 661 (down from 762 in 2022) incidents regarding concern for a citizens mental health, which averages to 14 incidents per week. The incidents were dispatched as follows:

- Welfare Checks (473 incidents)
- Mental Subject (79 incidents)
- Suicidal Subject (93 incidents)
- Suicide Attempt (16 incidents)

RESOURCES AND TRAINING

In 2023, the Sheridan Police Department continued handing out brochures with resources available to citizens dealing with mental health or addiction issues on all related calls.

In 2023, the Sheridan Police Department sent officers and dispatchers to Crisis Intervention Training, a week long course focusing on best practices for law enforcement contacts with individuals in mental health crisis.

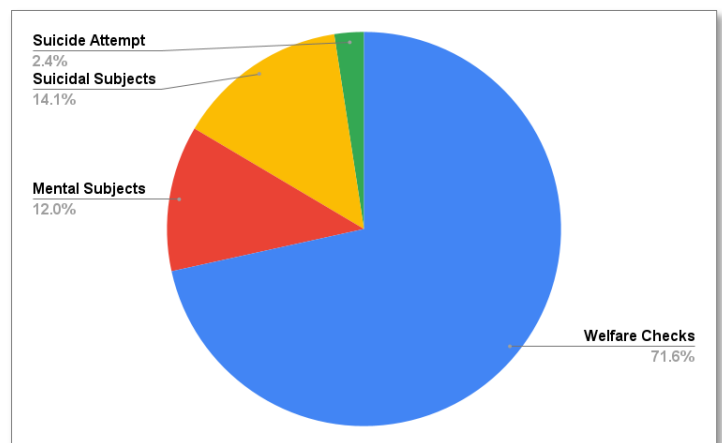
TITLE 25 ACTION TAKEN

In 2023, the Sheridan Police Department placed 27 (down from 52 in 2022) citizens to an involuntary medical assessment under Title 25 authority.

Of the above 661 incidents, Officers used Title 25 holds in 4% of the incidents.

USE OF FORCE

Of the 27 citizens put under a Title 25 hold, officers used force in only one (1) incident to gain compliance. Force was limited to open hand techniques and did not result in any injuries to the patient.



This means that officers successfully gained compliance without any force through de-escalation and communication techniques 98% of the time.

FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS

74% of patients placed under Title 25 had future contacts with the SPD.

Conversely, 26% of patients placed on a Title 25 hold had no future contacts with the SPD in 2023.

Six (6) of the 27 Title 25 actions were the same individuals being Titled a second time.

Community Relations

In 2023, the department used the following methods to ensure continued community support:

- ◆ Held monthly “Coffee with a Cop” events for citizens to interact with officers.
- ◆ Organized and participated in the Christmas “Shop with a Cop” event.
- ◆ 373 school visits by patrol officers at elementary schools. These range from running traffic in a school zone to reading to kids in the classroom.
- ◆ 2,233 visits to Sheridan College for close patrol.
- ◆ 1,085 “public contacts”, defined as an officer logging a personal non-enforcement citizen contact while on patrol.
- ◆ Regular participation on the radio show “Public Pulse” to message department activity and transparency.
- ◆ Offered citizen ride-a-longs for the public to spend time one on one with an officer while the officer is on shift.
- ◆ Participated in the High School’s internship program.
- ◆ Taught monthly TIPS (responsible serving) classes to those in the community serving alcohol.
- ◆ Participated in “Cook with a Cop”, an event for kids to make a meal with officers.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Held a naming contest giving community members a chance to name our new K9’s.



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's calls for service and engage in self initiated activities that prevent crime and keep traffic safe. The bureau uses data driven approaches to use 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.

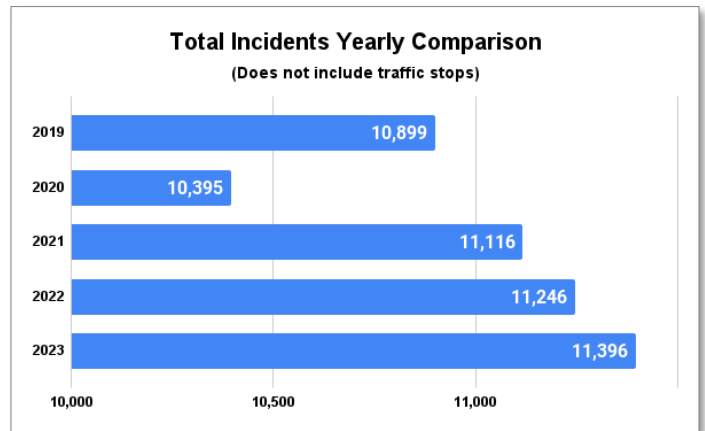


Lieutenant Daniel Keller

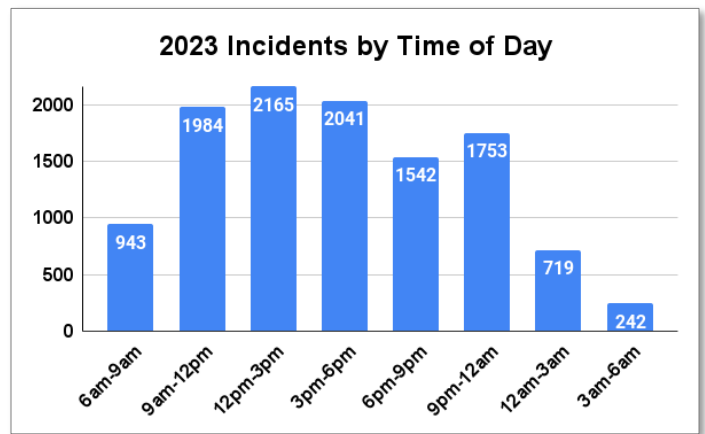
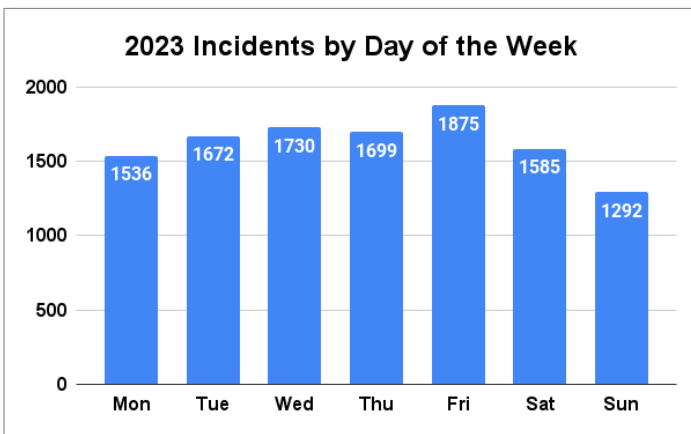
Patrol

In an average week of 2023, the Sheridan Police Department (SPD) was manned by four (4) patrol officers on day shift, four (4) patrol officers on night shift, two (2) detectives, two (2) school resource officers and administrative and civilian personnel. Average weekly activity throughout 2023 was:

Total Incidents (non traffic) responded to:	219
Traffic Stops:	115
Traffic Accidents:	13
Criminal Arrests (custodial and summons):	29
Use of Force Incidents:	.6
DWUI Arrests:	3
Mental Health / Welfare Checks:	12
Detective Investigations (death investigation, sexual assault, etc.):	1



In addition to these regular duties officers conducted community policing events, training requirements and administrative duties on a regular and ongoing basis throughout the year.



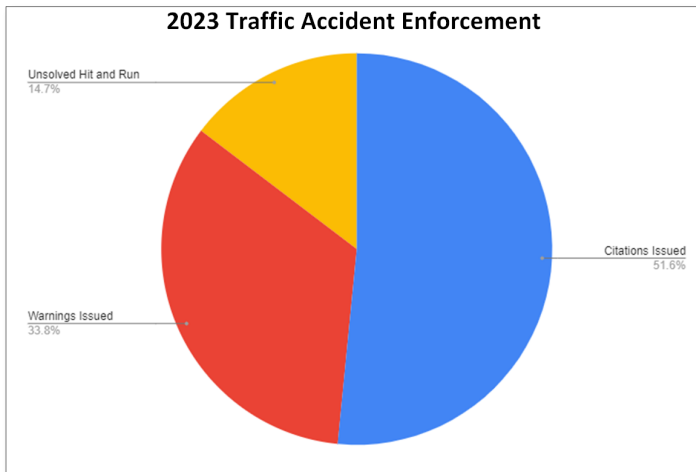
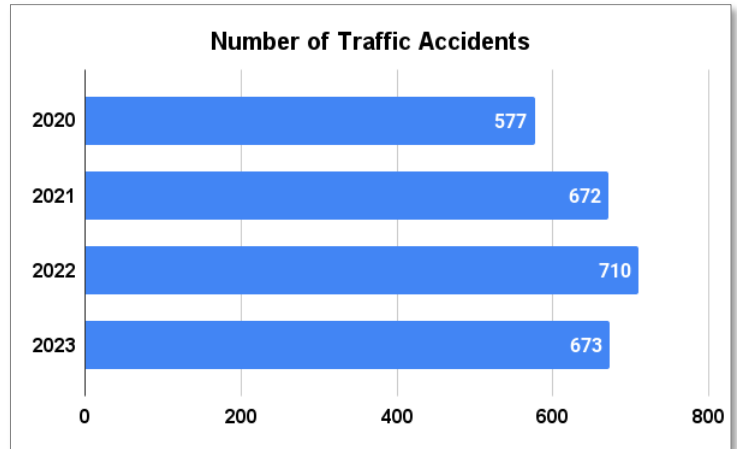
Traffic Management

ACCIDENTS

The Sheridan Police Department has instituted the Traffic Management Program to make Sheridan a safer place to drive and to reduce traffic crashes in the community. In partnering with the community, we can all do our part in reducing vehicular crashes throughout the community and in turn make Sheridan safer for all.

Total Accidents:

2020 – 2022 average accidents:	653
2023 accidents responded to:	673



A Citation or Warning Is Issued on 85.4% of All Accidents

Strategies to Reduce Accidents:

High Visibility Enforcement

- ◆ Used data to determine a high visibility enforcement (HVE) approach to traffic enforcement most effectively used when most accidents occur (12pm – 4pm) and when most DWUI arrests occur (12am – 3am).

Traffic Studies

- ◆ Used close patrols and JAMAR speed recording device to study different neighborhoods based on citizen complaints.

Media and Education

- ◆ Used social media messaging as well as local radio to alert the public to different traffic safety issues.
- ◆ Started hosting and instructing traffic safety classes open to the public. SPD has been averaging 12 citizens a month in attendance for these 8 hour classes.

Traffic Management

D^{WUI}

Total DWUI Arrests:

2022 DWUI Arrests: 169
 2023 DWUI Arrests: 163
 2020 - 2023 Average DWUI Arrests: 189

Testing:

Average BAC 2022 - .18
 2023 - .15

Breath Tests 2022 - 76
 2023 - 94

Blood Draws 2022 - 79
 2023 - 67

Meth. Contributing factor 2022 - 5
 2023 - 12

Marijuana Contributing factor 2022 - 22
 2023 - 13

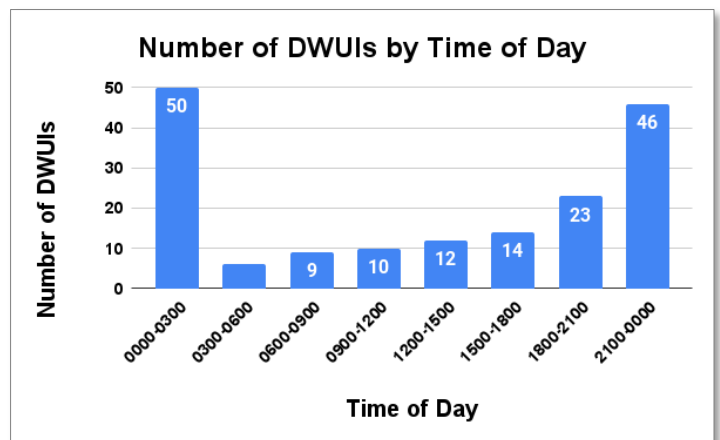
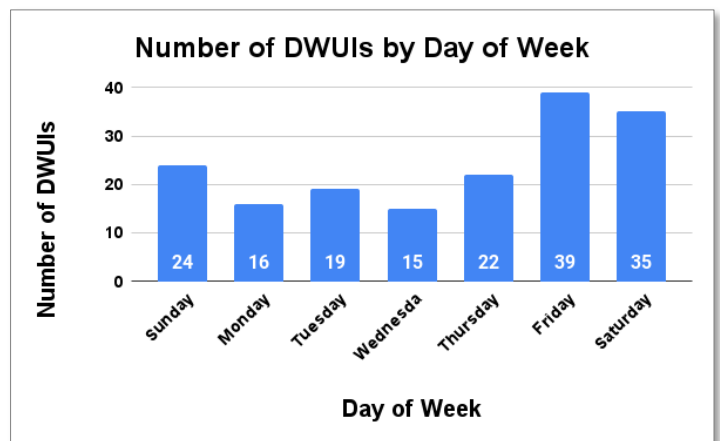
Drug Other Contributing factor 2022 - 9
 2023 - 15

No test obtained 2022 - 3
 2023 - 2

REDDI Reports: (Citizen Reports of Drunk Drivers):

REDDI Reports made by citizens 2022 - 256
 2023 - 223

Reports that resulted in arrests 2022 - 37 (14%)
 2023 - 53 (24%)



Traffic Management

Traffic Stops

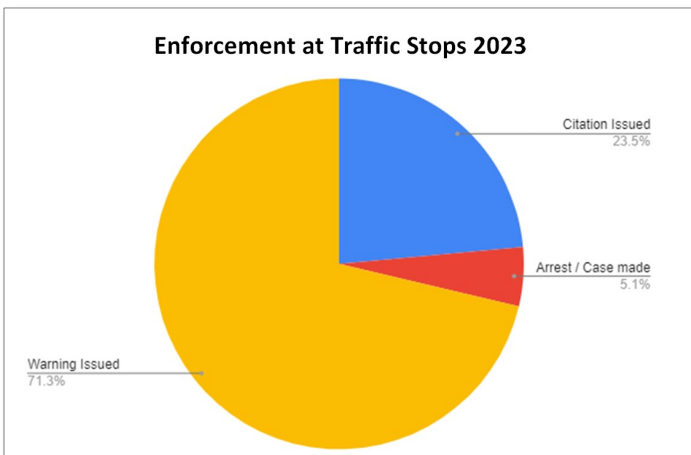
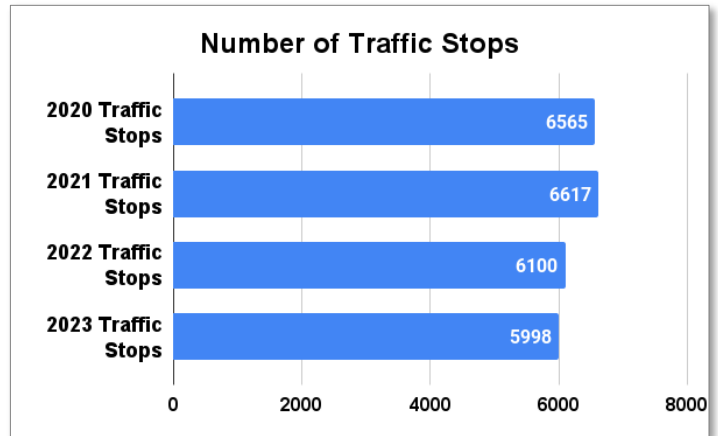
Total Traffic Stops:

2020-2022 Average traffic stops: 7094
2023 Traffic Stops 5998

Enforcement:

A traffic stop will result in one of three outcomes. The driver will be issued a citation. The driver will be issued a warning. The traffic stop additionally may result in a more serious offense being discovered resulting in an arrest and a case made for further investigation.

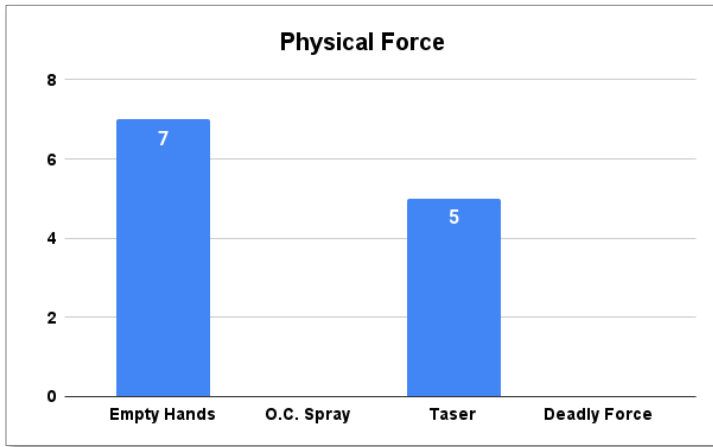
23.5% of traffic stops resulted in a citation.
71.3% resulted in a warning.
5.1% of stops resulted in a more serious offense being recognized by the officer and an active case being generated.



Only 23.5% of Traffic Stops Resulted in a Citation Being Issued

Use of Force

Physical Force/Intermediate Force

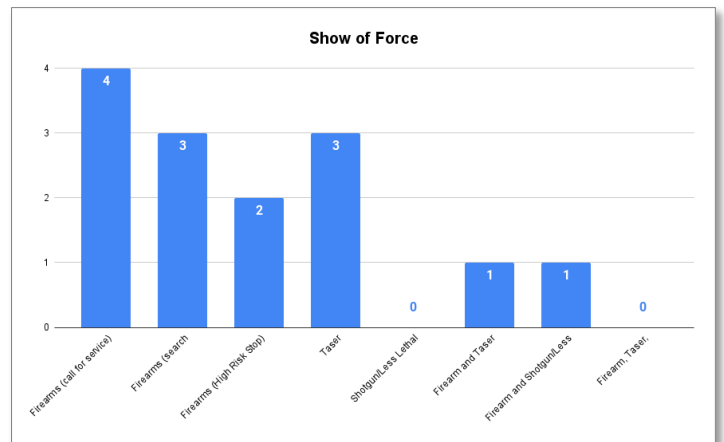


- ◆ Officers employed empty hand techniques 7 times in 2023. (including 3 leg sweeps and 1 strike to the face).
- ◆ Officers deployed O.C. spray 0 times in 2023.
- ◆ Officers fully deployed a taser cartridge 2 times in 2023.
- ◆ Officers utilized taser drive stuns 3 time in 2023.
- ◆ Officers did not use deadly force in 2023.
- ◆ Officers were injured in 2 use of force incidents (control holds) in 2023. The injuries did not rise above the level of abrasions, sprains and bruises .
- ◆ No suspects were injured beyond the level of abrasions, sprains and bruises in 2023.

Show of Force

Officers used displays of force to control suspect movements and to secure a scene in 20 use of force incidents in 2023.

- ◆ Firearms only (call for service) 4
- ◆ Firearms search warrants/arrests 3
- ◆ Firearms only (high risk traffic stop) 2
- ◆ Taser 3
- ◆ Shotgun/less lethal only 0
- ◆ Firearm and Taser 1
- ◆ Firearm and Shotgun/less lethal 1
- ◆ Firearm, Taser and Shotgun/less lethal 0



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 in using the K-9 as a bridge to the community with meet-n-greets and public demonstrations.

2023 saw a major change in the K-9 program. K-9s Charlie and Colt were retired. They had served since 2016 and had done an incredible job in aiding the department's narcotics investigations. A special thanks to Corporal Karla Krinkee and Sergeant Jonathan Snoozy for doing a remarkable job in reinstating the K-9 program back in 2016 and serving as Charlie and Colt's handlers for nearly eight years.

In the summer of 2023, Officers Conlee and Stallions undertook five weeks of dedicated training to become certified K-9 handlers. They then welcomed their new K-9 partners, Keva and Ava, to the department. Keva and Ava are certified using the Wyoming Police Service Dog Certification to detect marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine.

The K-9 handlers expose their K-9s to frequent training and 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.

RETIRED



COLT

CHARLIE



Officer Conlee
K-9 Keva

Officer Stallions
K-9 Ava

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 (2) 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.

CAD Incidents	2010	2014	2018	2022	2023
SPD	12,481	10,276	11,041	11,236	11,277
Other Agencies	11,793	13,799	16,195	12,842	13,441
Total CAD Incidents	24,274	24,075	27,236	24,078	24,718

	2021	2022	2023
9-1-1 Calls Presented	8,673	8,005	8,605
Admin Calls - Inbound	42,457	40,684	38,058
Total Calls Received	51,130	48,689	46,663
Admin Calls - Outbound	13,790	12,389	12,019

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 also responsible for all 911 calls for the entire county and after hours calls for the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office.



Dispatchers: Shelby Pippin, Kellen Phillips, John Maholick and Cynthia Sheperd-Godwin



Dispatchers: Shawn Bowen, Becca Hartman, Jack Roberts and Bella Ewen

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.

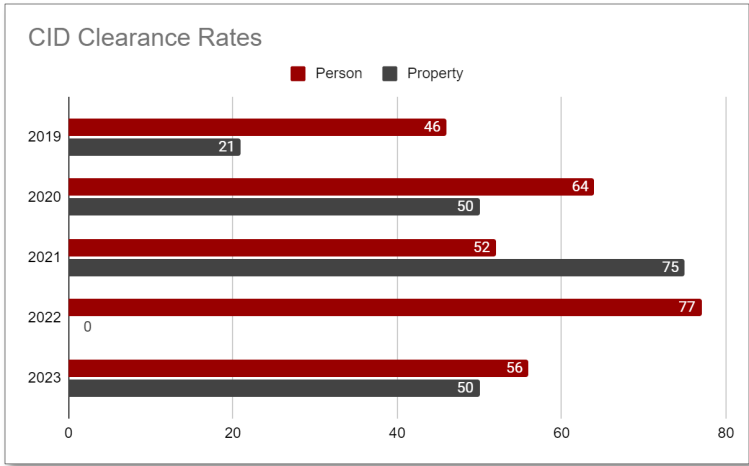
The Special Operations Bureau, under the direction of Lieutenant James Hill, is comprised of the Criminal Investigations Division, Community Service Officer Division and the School Resource Officers. In addition to the operations of the three sections listed above, the Special Operations Bureau is charged 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.



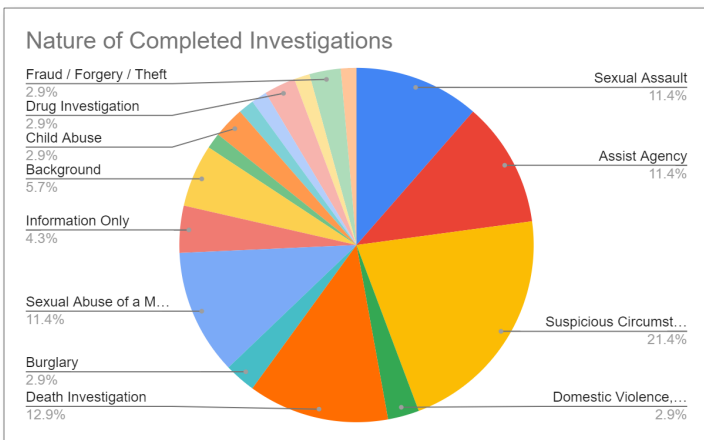
Lieutenant James Hill

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigation Division supports the bureau and department mission by conducting investigations that go beyond the routine due to their complexity, sensitivity, or consequences. The division was comprised of Detective Corporal Karla Krinkee and Detective Aaron Hartman, with additional supervision and casework by Lieutenant James Hill. In 2023, CID conducted a double homicide investigation. The identified offender completed suicide in another jurisdiction. About 20% of the investigations completed by CID are sexual crimes. These investigations led to two adults being arrested and charged with first-degree sexual assault and three people being charged with sexual abuse of a minor. Detectives work closely with the Department’s School Resource Officers to investigate crimes involving juveniles either as victims as in the above-mentioned abuse cases or as perpetrators. Two cases of note involved juveniles committing felony property crimes. In one instance firearms were stolen from a home. The investigation led to seven people being charged for various offenses including aggravated burglary and accessory after the fact. In another incident, four people were charged with felony theft.

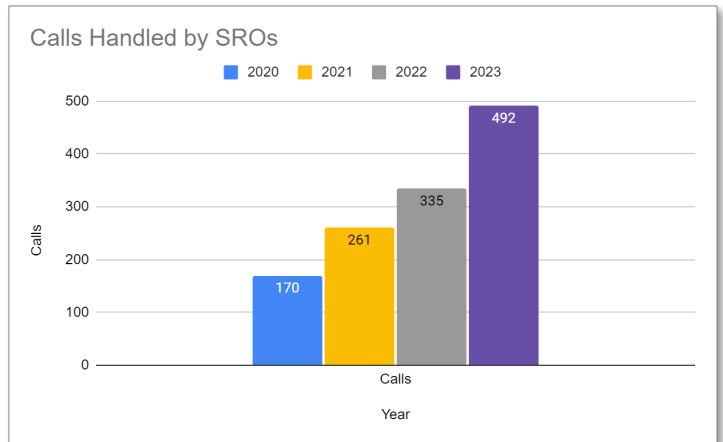


Detectives also worked to enhance and expand the Department’s capabilities. Cpl. Krinkee and Det. Hartman attended a course taught by the FBI on the topic of Child Abduction Response. Det. Hartman became certified as a mobile device examiner. A software suite was purchased to allow Det. Hartman (pursuant to a search warrant or the owner’s consent) the ability to retrieve and download stored information on mobile devices. As these devices play an important part in people’s everyday lives they can contain evidence of criminal activity. Previously the SPD used other agencies to perform this task, but now we can gather this important information.



School Resource Officers

The mission of the program is to promote safety, provide law enforcement services, and build relationships. The department has three School Resource Officer (SRO) positions. In 2023, only two positions were filled. SROs were stationed at the High School and Junior High School but provided support to and responded to all schools in the city. Officer Meagan Phillips and Officer Ben Hawkins were the department SROs. The SROs work during regular school hours as well as attending school events and functions. SROs focus on promoting safety by identifying needs, addressing security concerns, and preventive efforts through contacts and investigations of students who make threats or exhibit concerning behaviors. Both Officer Hawkins and Officer Phillips are certified ALICE instructors. ALICE is a recognized active threat response program. SROs provide police services for the school community by investigating criminal acts and enforcing laws. SROs also serve as liaisons between the department and the school community including staff, administrators, parents, and students. Both SROs are members of the Safe Schools Taskforce. During the summer and school breaks, the SROs supplement the Patrol Division and Criminal Investigation Division as needed. The demands placed on SROs continue to grow with increasing caseloads and expectations.



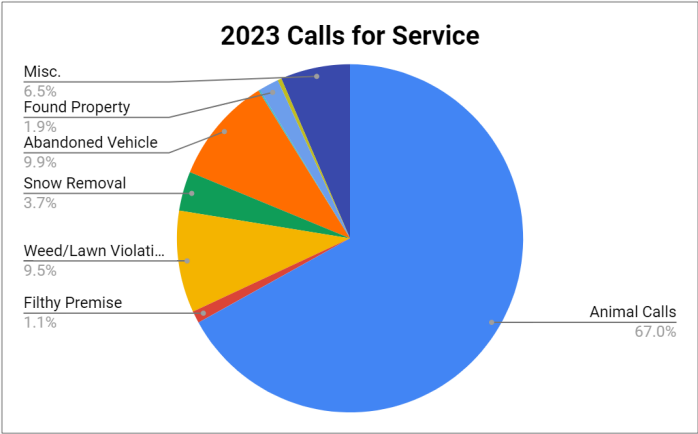
SRO Ben Hawkins



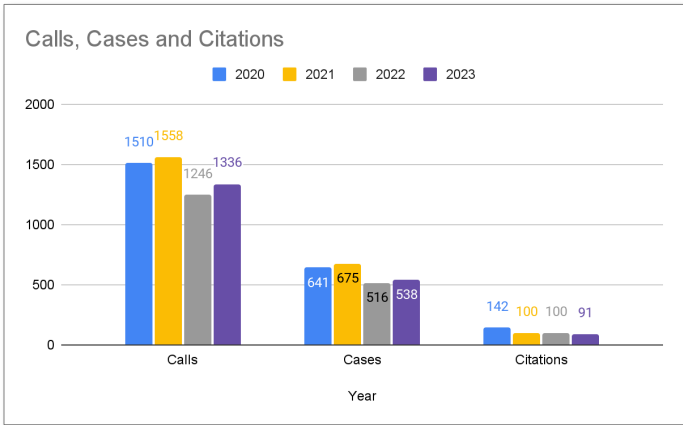
CSO Kris Walker and CSO Ed Boone

Community Service Officers

The Community Service Division supports the agency by providing specialized enforcement and investigations involving city codes such as snow removal and animals. The division is comprised of two Community Service Officers (CSO), Kris Walker and Ed Boone.



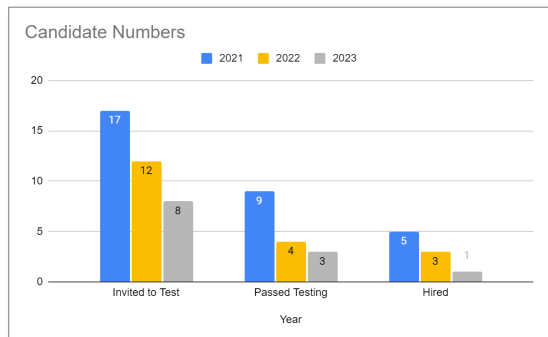
The CSOs respond to calls for service and patrol the city. The Department was able to purchase a new pickup truck for CSO Walker to use, replacing a thirteen-year-old vehicle.



Department Hiring

The Special Operations Bureau helps to organize and conduct the hiring for the department. There were five police officer testing days in 2023, down from ten in 2021. This was driven by the lower number of applications received. The chart below illustrates the decline. Also, the totals listed for 2021 only include those from May onward, before then the numbers were not tracked by the bureau. Different recruiting strategies have been researched to see the effectiveness of various methods. Job fairs, recruitment videos, and most other marketing methods are not cost-effective, especially for small agencies. The most important way to get people to apply for law enforcement jobs is strong word-of-mouth recommendations from current employees. The SPD encourages all employees to talk to potential officers about the benefits of working at the SPD. Another important way to increase hiring numbers is to make the process more efficient while

maintaining standards. This year, the Department contracted with the National Testing Network (NTN). NTN is a national recruiting and testing organization. NTN posted information about the SPD on their website, at testing locations, colleges, and job fairs. More importantly, NTN hosts online testing. Now when applicants apply to the SPD they can sign up to test at home or a testing center. There is no need to travel to Sheridan for the written test.



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
- ◆ Records Management
- ◆ Crime analysis and reports
- ◆ Record request dissemination
- ◆ Evidence and property management



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 and processes court abstracts.



Records Technicians: Kat Hersman, and Jerome Smith

	2015	2019	2023
Cases Routed*	2758	4608	4679
Cases Posted	5790	7491	7182
Records Checks	931	1376	774
Report Requests	638	686	961
VIN Inspections	146	250	436
Concealed Firearm Permits	430	370	299
Window Traffic**	4785	2643	2024
Court Abstracts Processed	UNKN	2670	2795

*The increase in Cases Routed is due to Municipal Court moving to City Hall in 2014. Municipal Court no longer had direct access to the Records Management System so cases had to start being routed to them by Records staff.

**In 2016, the Records Division moved to processing report requests online which led to a drastic decrease in the amount of walk-in traffic.

Grant Programs - In 2023, the Sheridan Police Department received \$136,756.07 in grant funding. This came from the following grants:

- ◆ Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL)
- ◆ Highway Safety Grant for Impaired Driving
- ◆ Highway Safety Grant for Occupant Protection
- ◆ Highway Safety Grant for Traffic Safety Education
- ◆ Bullet Proof Vest Grant
- ◆ Walmart Grant
- ◆ Tobacco Compliance Grant
- ◆ Alcohol Compliance Grant
- ◆ State Energy Retrofit Grant
- ◆ Highway Safety Video Camera Equipment
- ◆ Highway Safety Radar Equipment
- ◆ Homeland Security Helmet 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 Technician is also a fully trained Evidence Technician and assists in Evidence when needed.

Property received by the Evidence Department includes not only 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.

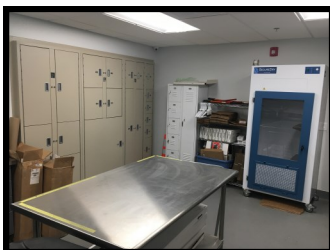
The types of evidence range in size from vehicles to fingerprints, and also include audio and video media. The city and county attorneys will often request copies of these different media, so their duplication is also a duty of the evidence technician. Knowledge of all of our media systems is essential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

	2015	2019	2023
Evidence Received	2407	1310	432
Evidence Purged	938	826	1092
Evidence Returned	278	339	221
Evidence Sent to Auction	0	16	0
Evidence Sent to Lab	257	193	118
Reports Taken	95	119	22
Supplemental Reports	394	767	195
Recordings	1533	991	4467

	2015	2019	2023
Drugs Surrendered	351	839.2	642.3
Drugs Burned	401	813.6	644
Illegal Drugs Burned	70	131	573

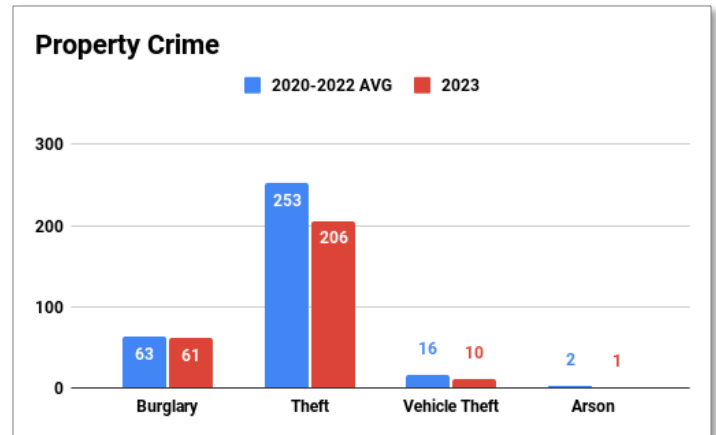
* Measurement is in pounds



Crime Statistics

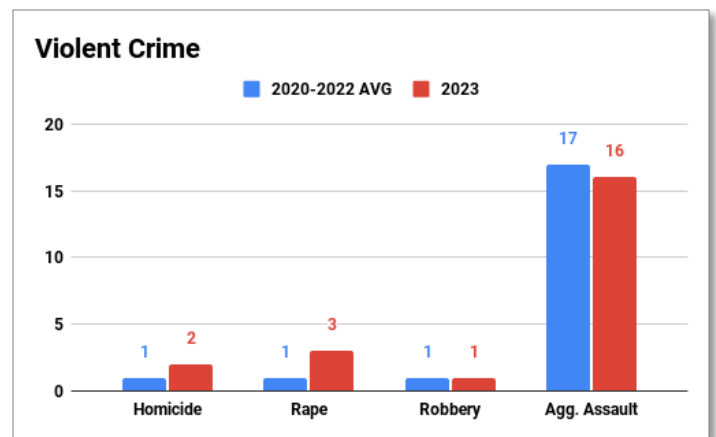
1. Property crimes.

	2020-2022 Average	2023	% of Change
Total Cases	333	278	-16.5
Burglary	63	61	-3.2
Larceny - Theft	253	206	-18.6
Vehicle Theft	16	10	-37.5
Arson	2	1	-50



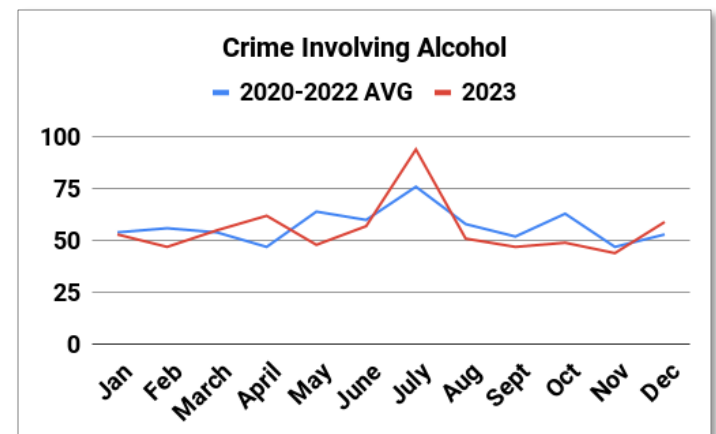
2. Violent crimes.

	2020-2022 Average	2023	% of Change
Total Cases	20	22	10
Homicide	1	2	100
Rape	1	3	200
Robbery	1	1	0
Aggravated Assault	17	16	-5.9
Simple Assault	190	181	-4.7



3. Alcohol related crime.

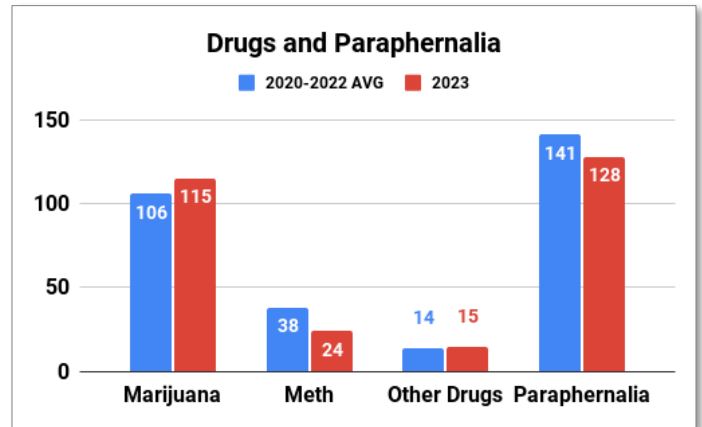
	2020-2022 Average	2023	% of Change
DUI Arrests	195	172	-11.8
Alcohol Arrests (not DUI)**	153	169	10.5
All Alcohol Involved Cases	683	666	-2.5



Crime Statistics

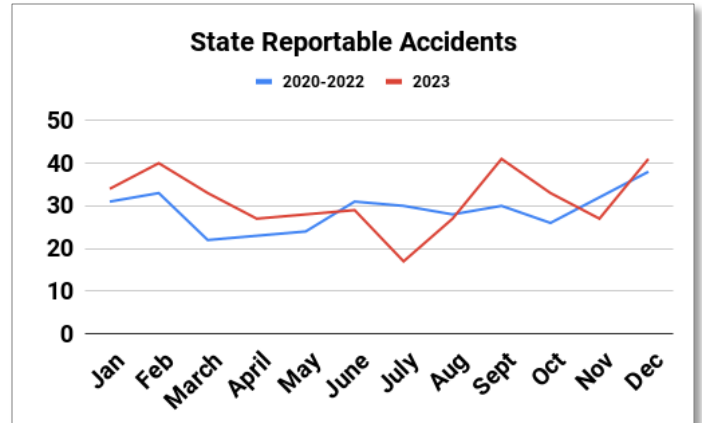
4. Drug seizures and drug related cases.

	2020-2022 Average	2023	% of Change
Marijuana	106	115	8.5
Methamphetamine	38	24	-36.8
Other Drugs (Cocaine, Heroin, Speed, LSD, etc)	14	15	7.1
Cases with Drug Paraphernalia Seized	141	128	-9.2
Drug Arrests	187	214	14.4
All Drug Involved Cases	248	241	-2.8



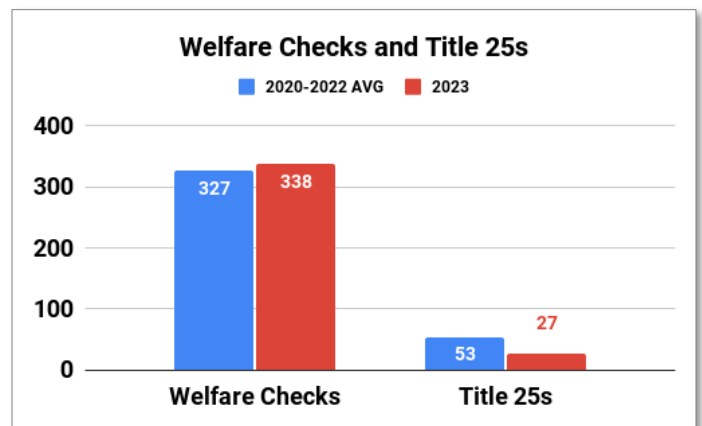
5. State reportable accidents and those involving alcohol or injury.

	2020-2022 Average	2023	% of Change
State Reportable Accidents	348	377	8.6
Alcohol Involved	15	13	-13.3
Injury Crashes	38	40	5.3



6. Welfare checks and Title 25s conducted.

	2020-2022 Average	2023	% of Change
Welfare Checks	327	338	3.4
Title 25's	53	27	-49.1







Thank You

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