



Annual Report

9237 183rd St W
Lakeville, Minnesota

LakevilleMN.gov

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A Year in Review from Chief Paulson



It is my honor and pleasure to share the 2025 Lakeville Police Department Annual Report with you. I'm confident that in the pages that follow you'll find the men and women of the police department continue to work extraordinarily hard to serve and protect our community professionally, and innovatively.

We have an agency mindset that we police alongside our community. This requires a relationship built on trust, along with a mutual understanding that we need each other to have a community where our residents and visitors feel safe. Trust can take a long time to earn, but can erode quickly, and we don't take this essential relationship lightly.

For a variety of reasons, the policing profession can get the reputation as being cloaked in secrecy at times. To overcome this, we feel the need to overcompensate with transparency in what we do, what tools we use, and who we are. With a variety of initiatives, to include such things as our Citizen's Academy, ride along videos with officers, and public-facing equipment and training videos highlighting our tools and programs, we work hard to allow our community to have a better understanding of who we are, at many levels.

I'm confident that in the pages that follow, you'll see through our work that we spend a considerable amount of time working in partnership with our community. We feel that this focus continues to build on the level of trust we've worked hard to establish and maintain. We continue to believe that we can work in a profession that at times involves enforcement and adherence to law, all while doing so in a professional, respectful, and empathetic fashion. In an ever-changing and, at times, turbulent world, we strive to be a bedrock of stability, providing a consistent service that our residents and visitors can rely on no matter the circumstances.

I'm grateful for the support we receive from our community at large, along with our City Administrator, Mayor and Council. As always, none of this is possible without the dedication and sacrifice of our staff whose tremendous work is highlighted in the pages that follow.



Our Mission

The Lakeville Police Department exists to ensure an excellent quality of life in Lakeville by serving and protecting in a professional and innovative way.

Our Values

1

Work hard

2

Have fun

3

Take responsibility

4

Maintain a healthy balance

Employee Roster

ADMINISTRATION

Brad Paulson - Chief of Police
Jason Haider - Patrol Lieutenant
Jeremy Lerfald - Patrol Lieutenant
Jeff Hanson - Support Lieutenant

Jason Jensen - Investigations Lieutenant
Thor Howe - Professional Standards Lieutenant
Diane Bastyr - Business Manager
Alex Yohnke - Police Administrative Specialist

SERGEANTS

Josh Berkebile - Sergeant
Alex Johannes - Sergeant
Michelle Roberts - Sergeant
Tom Danielson - Sergeant
Alison Shank - Sergeant

Nick Jacobson - Sergeant
Sara Urman - Sergeant
Casey King - Sergeant
Josh Flynn - Investigations Sergeant

SUPPORT SERVICES

Rachael Bond - Records Technician
Nicole Brown - Records Technician
Sue Condon - Records Technician
Brittney Brown - Records Technician

Kristen Bye - Records Technician
Sunny Sassor - Records Compliance Specialist
Michelle Tangen - Evidence Technician
Nicole Marben - Crime Analyst

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

Marc Cleary - CSO
Bill Nelson - CSO
Hailey Nelson - CSO

James Stam - Part Time CSO
Anika Lange - Part Time CSO

OFFICERS

Anderson, Eric
Anderson, Natalie
Angle, Spencer
Bares, Emily
Baron, Joe
Carstensen, Taylor
Clifton, Kevin
Considine, William
Coughlin, Kelli
Craig, Eric
Dronen, Jim
Ellis, Jamie
Enevold, Josh
Engle, Justin
Filas-Deaver, Derek

Fitzhenry, Shawn
Frame, Scott
Good, Christine
Hagfors, Samantha
Hvinden, Ron
Johnson, Brandon
Karp, Megan
Kellington, Mariah
Key, Jason
Konkol, Alex
Lamm, Mike
Lehman, Will
Letson, Brady
Lindberg, Andrew
Maus, Corey

McCarthy, Brandon
McMahon, Shawn
Nelson, Mitchell
Nivaud, Nick
Oyaas, William
Page, Jammal
Pelach, Nicholas
Petersen, Riley
Peterson, Adam
Quinlan, John
Rahman, Eric
Ruch, Victoria
Rue, Bob
Ruppert, Melissa
San Agustin, Tyler

Schaeffer, Erik
Schirmer, Andrew
Silvernail, Fletcher
Smith, Brian
Spearman, Russell
Springer, Hayley
Swaner, Jessica
Weestrand, Bennett
Werden, Joleen
Wichner, Josh
Williams, Todd
Witschorik, Carrie
Wubben, Brad
Wurst, Lauren

Employee Roster Cont.

RESERVE OFFICERS

Bryan Bixby
 Connie Pomrenke
 Nancy Hamilton
 Edward Hellier
 Chris Kelessidis

William Shea
 Wyatt Ellanson
 Jennifer Kluender
 Sebrom Morris
 Kelly Strom

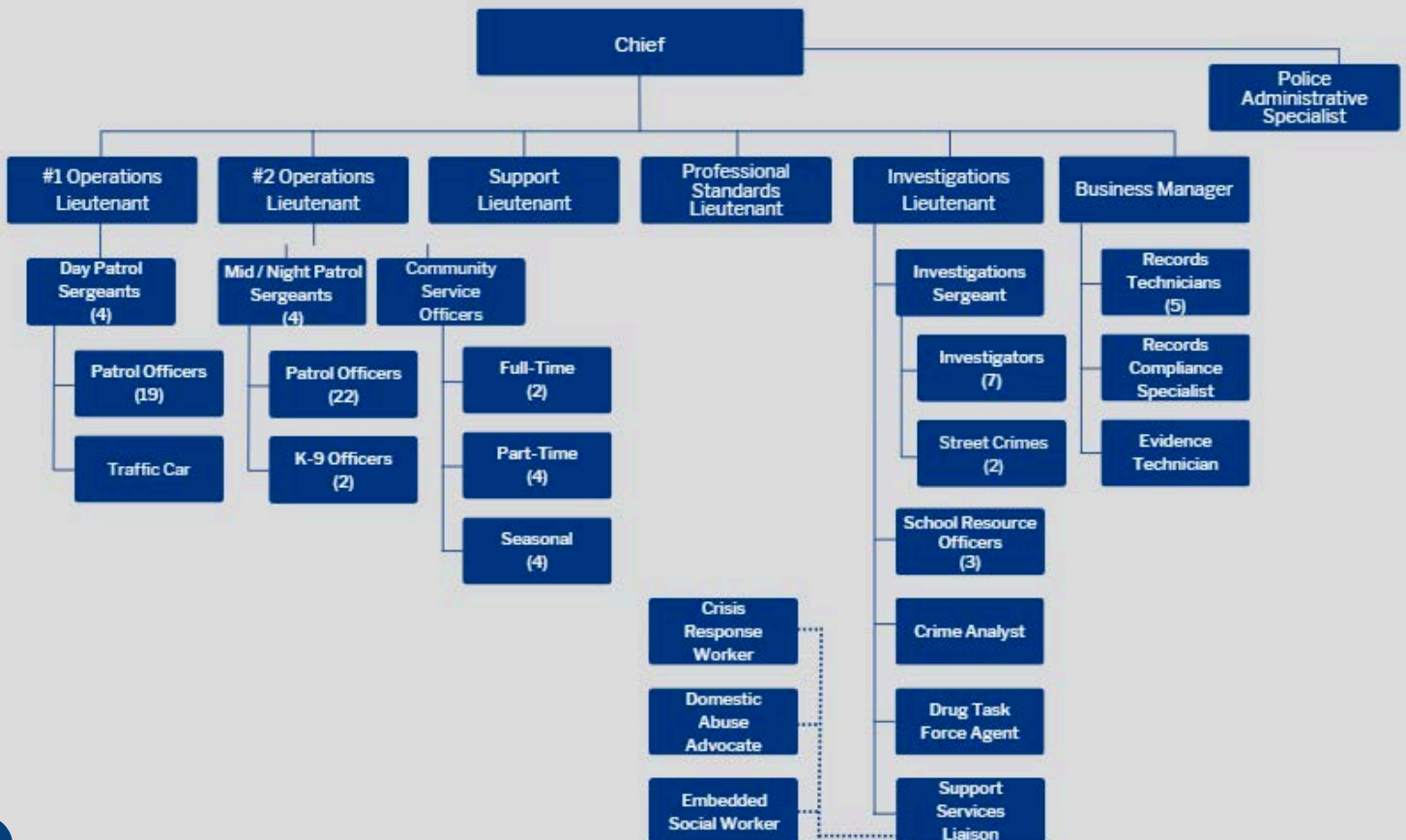
Julie Earp
 Lantz Wagner
 Mark Culverson
 Kari Snyder
 Ed (Skip) Bolton

CHAPLAINS

Russ Bacon
 Dan Feldkamp
 Larry Lotzer
 Jim Marschall

Deb Marzahn
 Erik Poch
 Ryan Widdel
 Jamie Thompson

2025 Organizational Chart

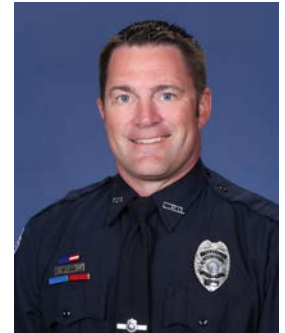


Department Awards



LAKEVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Detective Mike Lamm



MEDAL OF MERIT



Officer
Andy Schirmer



Officer
Bennett Weestrand



Officer
Shawn Fitzhenry



Officer
Eric Anderson

WRITTEN COMMENDATION

Lieutenant Jeff Hanson

Officer Eric Anderson

Officer Bob Rue

Officer Brandon McCarthy

Officer Jason Key

Officer Russell Spearman

Officer Bill Considine

Community Service Officer James Stam

Thank you FOR YOUR SERVICE

Promotions

LIEUTENANTS



Jeff Hanson

Jeff has served as a sworn member of LPD since January 2005, including more than six years as a Patrol Sergeant. Throughout his career, he has held several specialized roles, including Union Steward, DTF K9 Handler, DTF Agent/Team Leader, Assistant Commander of SWAT/CNT, UAS Team member, and Assistant Emergency Manager. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Police Science from St. Mary's University, a Master's degree in Law Enforcement Leadership from St. Thomas University, and is a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff & Command.



Thor Howe

Thor has been a sworn member of LPD since April 2006 and has completed more than four years as a Patrol Sergeant, now serving as a Lieutenant. His assignments have included Firearms/DT Instructor and Lead, Union Steward, SRO, Street Crimes, FTO, CSO Mentorship Program, and LIPA President. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Police Science from St. Mary's University, a Master's degree in Police Leadership from St. Thomas University, and is a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff & Command.



Jeremy Lerfald

Jeremy began his full-time law enforcement career in 1997 with the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office and joined LPD as an officer in July 2005. He later served as Goodhue County's Chief Deputy from 2019–2022 before returning to LPD. After serving one year as a Patrol Sergeant, Jeremy was promoted to Lieutenant this past May. His assignments include SRO, K9 Handler, SWAT, Union Steward, FTO, Investigator, CSU, and LIPA Board Member. As Chief Deputy, he oversaw more than 100 employees, managed a \$13 million budget, and completed leadership training through the Institute of Credible Leadership Development and the MN Sheriff's Association Chief Deputy School.

Promotions Cont.

SERGEANTS



Tom Danielson

Tom began his law enforcement career eighteen years ago and has served with the Lakeville Police Department for the past fourteen years. Throughout his career, he has served as a Union Steward, FTO, training more than 25 officers, and as a K-9 Handler.



Alison Shank

Alison began her law enforcement career nearly fourteen years ago and has served with the Lakeville Police Department for the past eleven years. Throughout her tenure, she has held several roles, including FTO, Mental Health Officer, and member of both the CSU and CET. Most recently, she served as a School Resource Officer at Lakeville North High School.

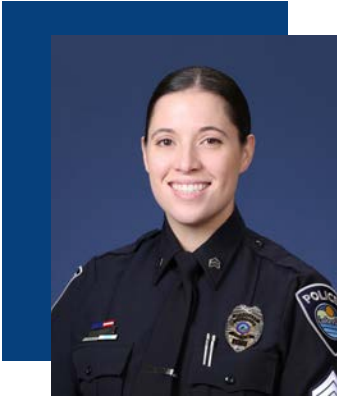


Nick Jacobson

Nick has served with the Lakeville Police Department for more than eleven years and brings a diverse and well-rounded background to his role. He is a Marine Infantry OEF veteran and served on the SWAT Team for ten years. His additional assignments include Drug Task Force, Firearms and Use of Force Instructor, Mobile Field Force Instructor, Union Steward, Peer Support Team member, and CSU member.

Promotions Cont.

SERGEANTS



Sara Urman

Sara has served with the Lakeville Police Department for more than fourteen years, including twelve years as an officer. She has held a variety of roles, including FTO, CSU member, Firearms/DT Instructor, Union Steward, and Peer Support Team member. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement from Metropolitan State University and a Master of Arts in Public Safety and Law Enforcement Leadership from the University of St. Thomas.



Casey King

Casey has served with the Lakeville Police Department for more than ten years and has nearly twelve years of total law enforcement experience. He has held roles including FTO and CSU member, with rotations as both a Street Crimes Officer and Investigator. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement from Metropolitan State University.

Internal Movement



Josh Flynn

Sergeant Flynn was selected to move into our newly created Investigative Sergeant position in March.



Andy Schirmer

Officer Schirmer was selected as LPD's traffic car in April. This supplemental assignment has a term of two years.



Joleen Werden

Officer Werden and K-9 Nora were introduced as our new K-9 team in June.



Mariah Kellington

Officer Kellington moved from a Patrol Officer to School Resource Officer for Lakeville North High School in August.

Retirements



Commander Jim Puncochar

Commander Puncochar dedicated thirty-four years to law enforcement, spending thirty-one of those years with LPD. Over his career, he had a hand in nearly every part of the organization, serving in a wide range of roles and assignments that kept his career both dynamic and impactful.



Commander Bill Gerl

Commander Gerl retired in May after thirty-one years of service, having started his career in 1994. Rising through the ranks from Sergeant to Lieutenant and Commander, he held a variety of assignments throughout his career and made a lasting impact on the department.



Lieutenant Jason Polinski

With a 30 year career that began in 1995, Lieutenant Polinski retired in June after rotating through a wide variety of supplemental assignments and dedicating himself to community engagement. His legacy continues through his impact, leadership and humor.



Sergeant Doyle Cockrell

Spending his entire twenty-nine-year career with LPD, Sergeant Cockrell rotated through a variety of supplemental assignments, led as a Sergeant for seven years, and served as a Field Training Officer for 17 years. He retired in July after playing a vital role in shaping the next generation of officers.

Retirements



K-9 Kilo

K-9 Kilo proudly served the Lakeville Police Department for nine years, apprehending numerous suspects and helping locate illegal narcotics. His expertise was invaluable in building searches, and he participated in more than 85 K-9 demonstrations, becoming a cherished member of LPD and our community. K-9 Kilo retired in March.



Officer Chad Loeffler & K-9 Storm

With nearly twenty-nine years in law enforcement and twenty-one years with LPD, Officer Loeffler paved the way for others before retiring in August. He spent nineteen years as a K-9 handler alongside partners Shadow, Tank and Storm, setting a strong foundation for the program and future K-9 handlers in our community.



Community Service Officer Randy Smith

Randy retired in August after eight years of service with LPD as a Community Service Officer, including serving as a Lead CSO. From assisting on calls to being the first to jump in on a good laugh, he brought kindness, humor and a can-do spirit to everything he did.



Records Technician Genny Davis

After twenty-five years at LPD, Genny's career spanned five Police Chiefs, three Records Supervisors, three City Administrators and countless colleagues. She retired in August, leaving behind a legacy of knowledge, adaptability and dedication.

New Hires - Sworn

OFFICERS



**Justin Engle -
Badge# 48138**

Officer Engle formerly worked as a Reserve Officer and CSO with LPD, then most recently as a Lead Security Coordinator for Entertainment at Mystic Lake Casio.



**Alex Konkol -
Badge# 48139**

Officer Konkol previously worked at Mystic Lake Casino as a Security Supervisor for four years before coming to LPD.



**Bennett
Weestrand -
Badge# 48140**

Officer Weestrand started as a CSO in 2022 and following graduation from Saint Mary's he was hired on as a full-time officer.



**Josh Enevold -
Badge# 48141**

Officer Enevold was a Cadet with the ICPOET grant program and with previous experience in law enforcement he was hired on in July.



**Megan Karp -
Badge# 48142**

Officer Karp was also a Cadet with the ICPOET grant program. She graduated from St. Cloud State University and was hired on in July.



**Joe Baron -
Badge# 48143**

Officer Baron graduated from Bemidji State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. He was hired on in July.

New Hires - Sworn

OFFICERS



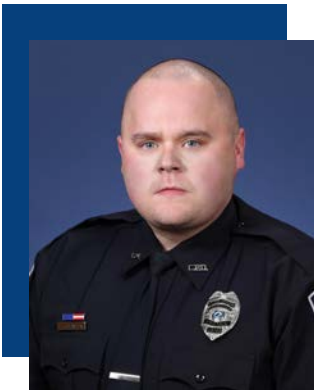
Fletcher Silvernail - Badge# 48144

Officer Silvernail started with LPD in 2024 as a CSO, and following his completed education at Rasmussen University, he was hired on in November.



Victoria Ruch - Badge# 48145

Officer Ruch grew up in Lakeville and was a CSO for 1.5 years. She graduated from Rasmussen University and was hired on in November.



Brandon Johnson - Badge# 48146

Officer Johnson brings 11 years of law enforcement experience to LPD. Previously, he worked at the Carver County Sheriff's Office.



Derek Filas-Deaver - Badge# 48148

Officer Filas-Deaver was previously in the MN Army National Guard for six years and was a Security Field Training Officer at the Mall of America before coming to LPD in November.



K-9 Nora

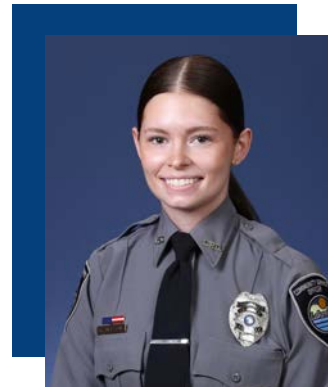
K-9 Nora came to LPD in April and received her training from Minnesota Canine Consulting in New Prague, MN. She specializes in tracking, building searches, article searches, detecting guns and ammunition, protecting her handler, and apprehending suspects.

New Hires - Civilian



Bill Nelson - CSO

CSO Nelson was previously a LPD Reserve Officer and is retired from a career in Air Traffic Control. He was hired on full-time in July.



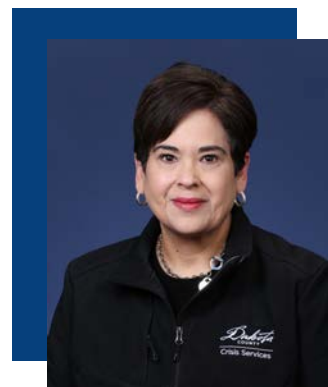
Hailey Nelson - CSO

CSO Nelson attends Normandale Community College and is studying Criminal Justice. She was hired on full-time in August.



Kristen Bye - Records Technician

Kristen comes from the Minnesota Department of Health, where she spent 13 years in various roles. She started with LPD in August.



Sylvia Galvan Kupke - Embedded Social Worker

Sylvia brings 30 years of experience in the mental health field to LPD. She previously worked with Dakota County Crisis Response Unit before starting at LPD in October.

2025 Statistics

POPULATION



77,971

OFFICERS

73



2025 CALLS FOR SERVICE

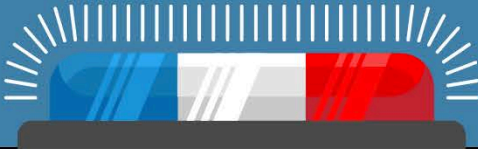
47,033



TRAFFIC STOPS **10,961**

WARNINGS **9,295**

CITATIONS **1,666**



TOTAL ARRESTS

558



THEFTS

407



GUN PERMITS
420

DOMESTICS

235



MENTAL HEALTH
492

TOP 5 SERVICE CALLS

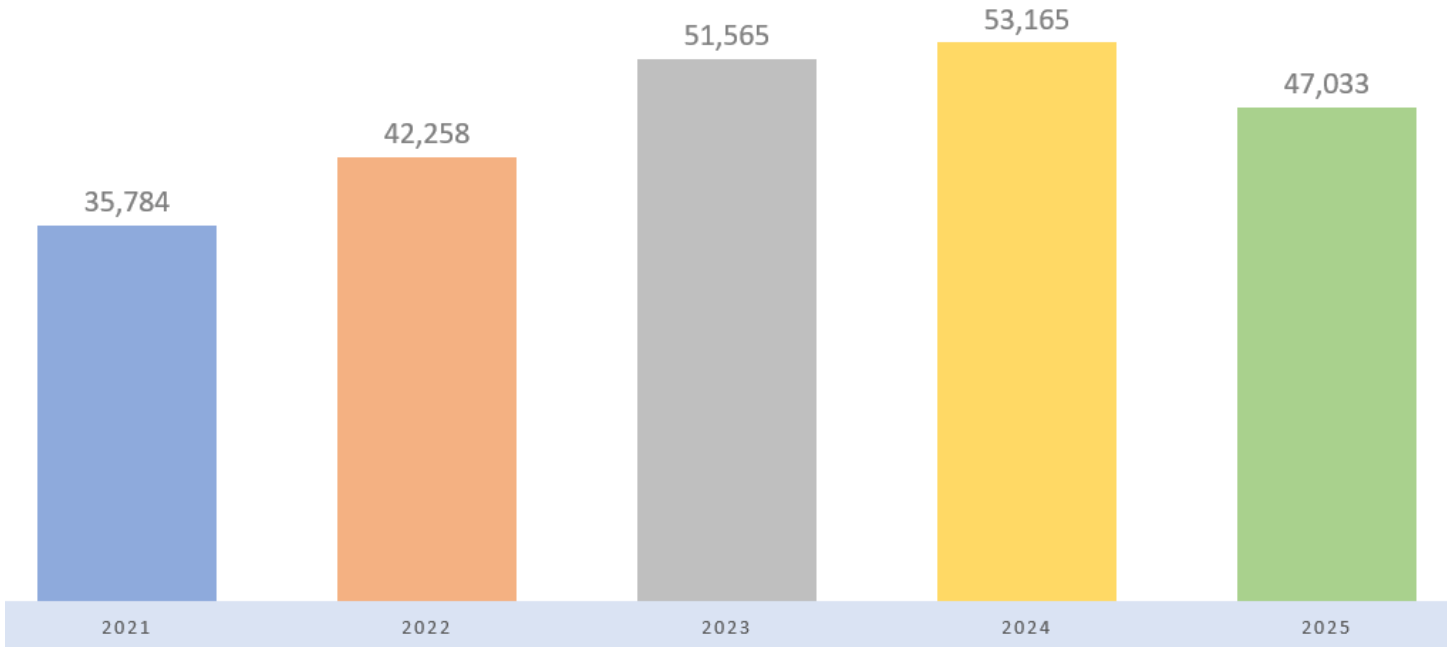
1. Suspicious Activity
2. Accidents/No Injury
3. Road and Driving Complaints
4. Alarms
5. Disturbance/Disorderly

TOP 6 CITATIONS ISSUED

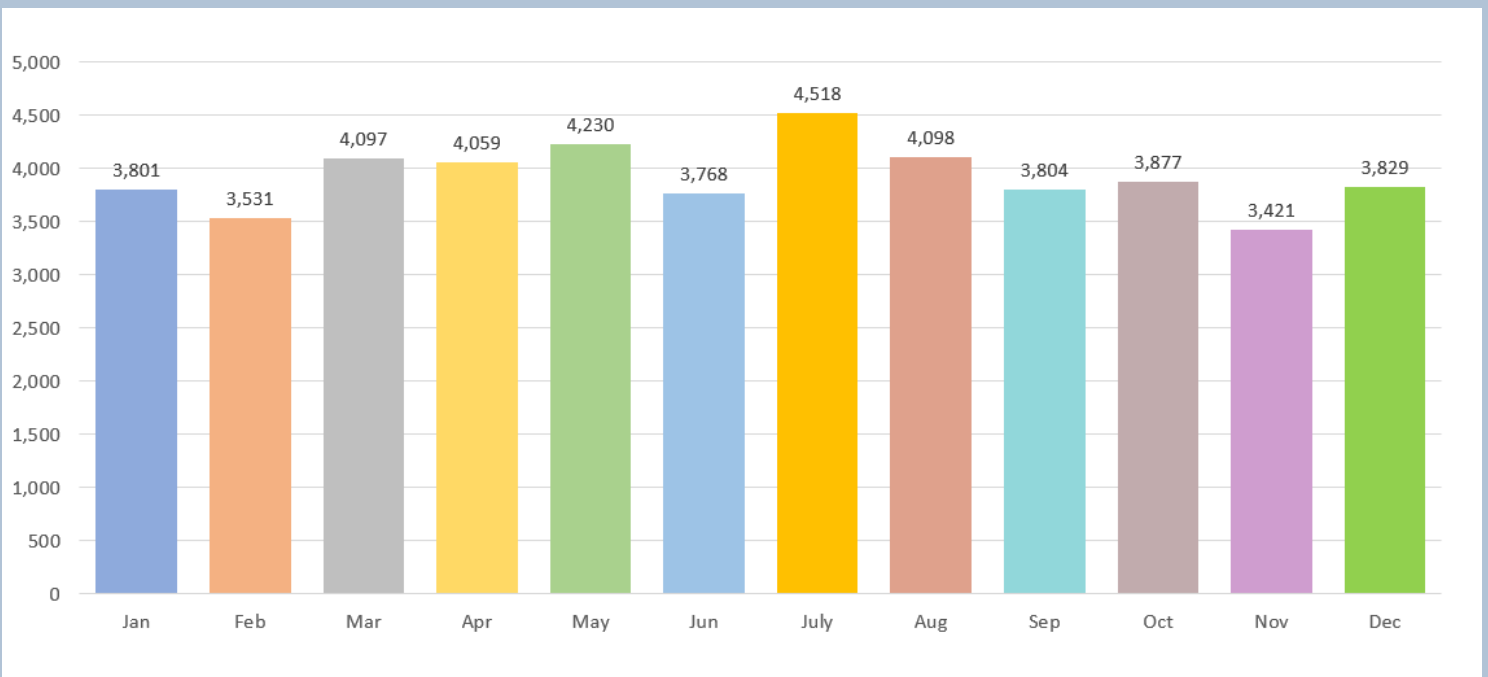
1. Traffic, Speeding
2. Traffic, Vehicle Registration Violation
3. Traffic, No Proof of Insurance
4. Traffic, Driving after Revocation
5. Traffic, Duty to Drive with Due Care
6. Traffic, No Valid Driver's License

2025 Statistics

ANNUAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

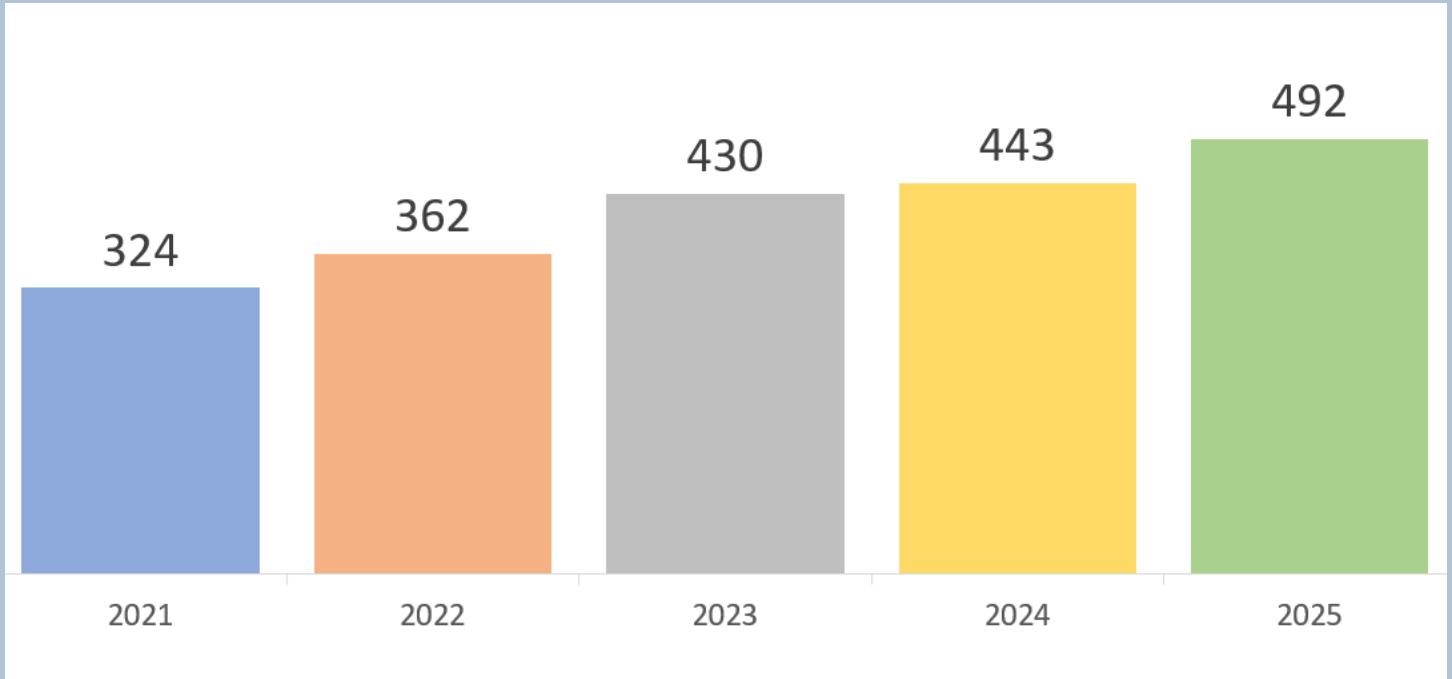


MONTHLY CALLS FOR SERVICE

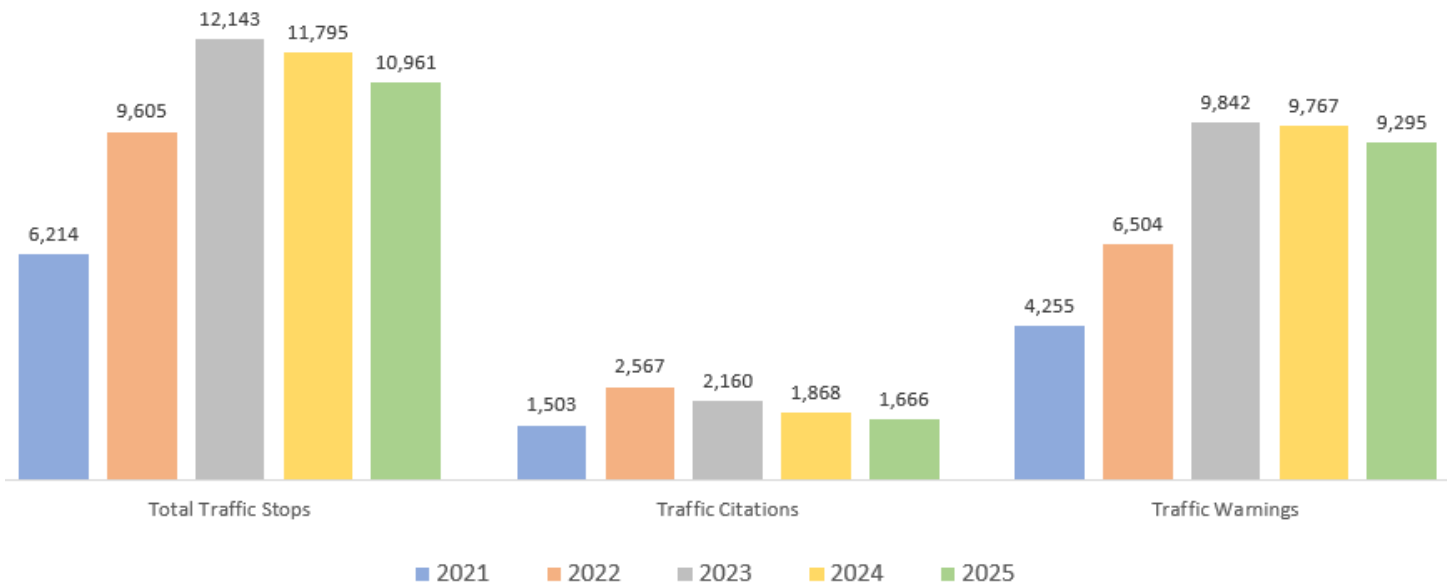


2025 Statistics

CRISIS CALLS

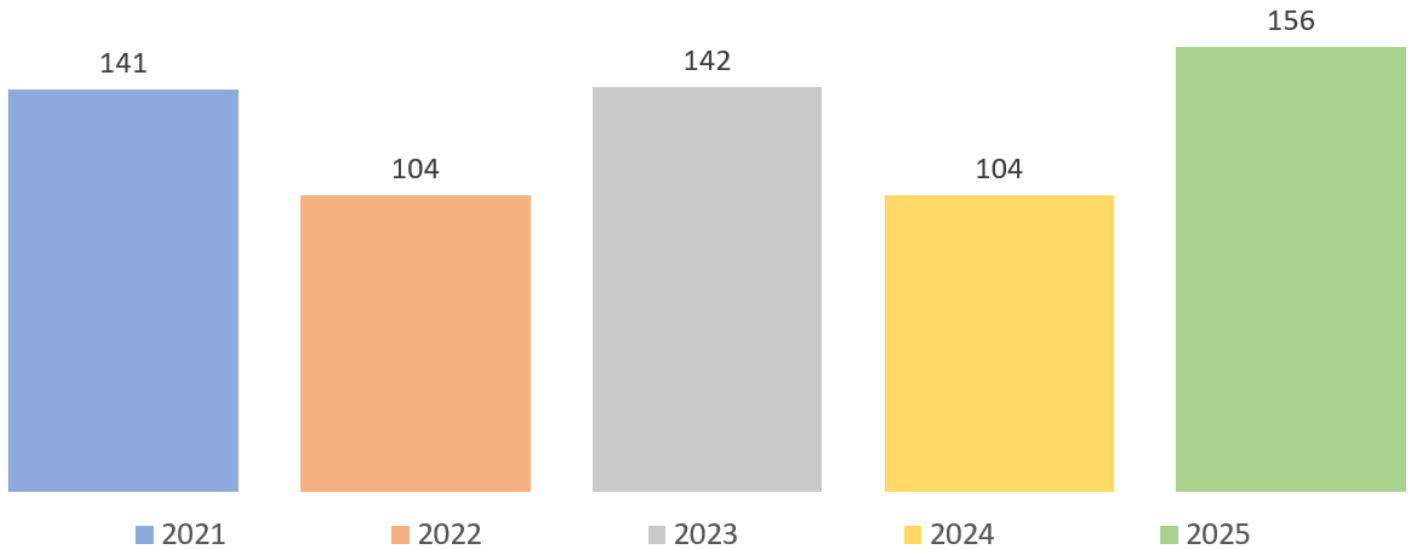


TRAFFIC STOPS

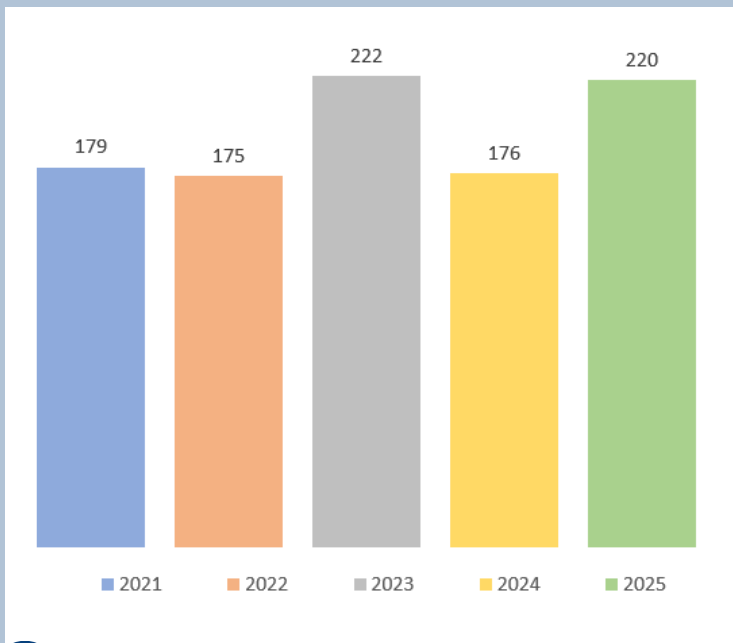


2025 Statistics

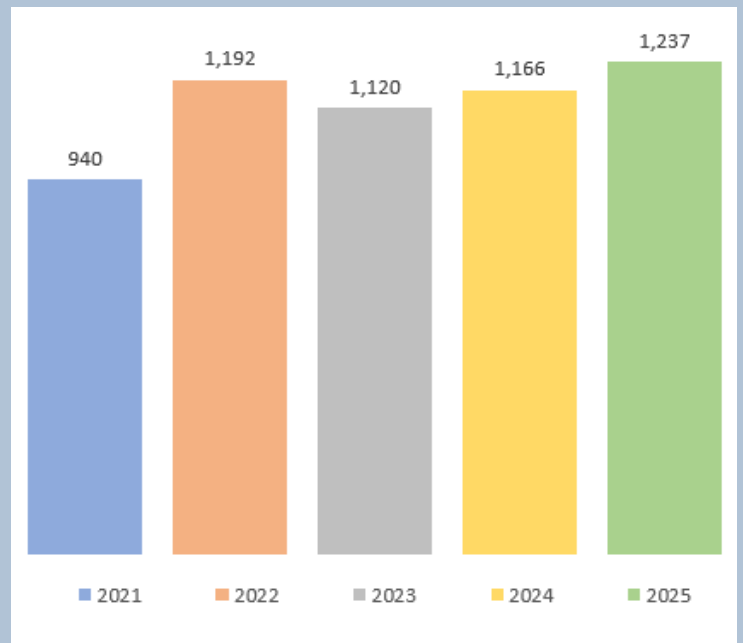
DWI ARRESTS



PERSONAL INJURY MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES



PROPERTY DAMAGE MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES



Patrol

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible unit of the Lakeville Police Department. They are authorized 43 patrol officers, 8 patrol sergeants, a dedicated traffic car, and are overseen by two lieutenants. With this authorized strength, this division continues to maintain high service levels.

In 2025, three patrol officers became certified phlebotomists, enabling on-scene blood draws during DUI and criminal vehicular operation investigations.

The Patrol Division continues to provide 24/7 service, responding to calls for service and maintaining proactive enforcement.

Traffic safety remains a primary focus along with mental health, which continue to require a significant investment of patrol time and resources. Patrol officers also serve in a wide range of supplemental and specialty assignments such as:

- Field Training Officer
- Drone Operator
- South Metro SWAT
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Firearms Instructor
- Crime Scene Unit
- Peer Support Team
- Mobile Field Force
- K-9
- Community Engagement Team
- Active Shooter Team
- Traffic Unit



K-9



Our K-9 unit has changed significantly over the past year. In the spring, K-9 Kilo retired and his handler Officer Danielson was promoted to sergeant; and in the fall our other team, K-9 Storm and Officer Loeffler, retired together. Both dogs were purchased by their handlers and are enjoying retirement at home.



This made room for our newest K-9 team Officer Jolene Werden and her partner K-9 Nora. Nora is a two-year-old Belgian Malinois from Canada, and she is our first female K-9. Nora finished her training with McDonough K-9 and specializes in tracking, building searches, criminal apprehension, and firearms detection. We will be adding a second K-9 team in the spring of 2026.

Investigations

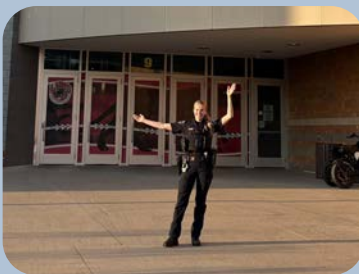
The Investigative Division provides support and assistance to the Patrol Division, conducts specialized investigations, and coordinates follow-up investigation of major crimes. The team is comprised one detective sergeant, seven detectives, two street crimes detectives, three school resource officers, one drug task force agent and one crime analyst. They are led by one investigative Lieutenant.

The primary objective of the division is the investigation of cases forwarded from the patrol division for follow-up, along with coordinating investigations with other agencies and preparing criminal cases for presentation to the prosecuting authorities. Daily tasks performed by investigators include taking formal statements from victims and suspects, application and execution of search warrants, forensic interviews of victims, collaborating with social services, working with adult protection, and computer forensic analysis. In 2025, the Investigative Division was assigned 985 cases for review.

School Resource Officers

School Resource Officers (SROs) from the Lakeville Police Department have been assigned to serve public schools in our community. The City and ISD 194 formalized a partnership and signed a Memorandum of Understanding identifying the goals of the SRO program.

SROs are selected following a competitive process that includes ISD 194 interviews. Officers must demonstrate their commitment to the law, their effective communication with youth, care for the community, and a commitment to the development of the youth they serve. SROs are trained to recognize disturbances in the schools and respond accordingly. Not every situation requires law enforcement action to be taken. SROs can connect students with necessary resources or simply have genuine conversations with them. Developing positive relationships with students is an important part of the position and we are lucky to have three officers in our Lakeville schools.



Officer Mariah Kellington
LNHS SRO



Officer Drew Lindberg
LSHS SRO



Officer Christine Good
Middle Schools SRO

SWAT

The Lakeville Police Department partners with 12 other agencies across Dakota County and Rice County to form the South Metro SWAT Team. This unit assists in high-risk incidents, such as executing search and arrest warrants, dealing with barricaded suspects, conducting hostage rescues, providing dignitary protection, and offering chemical and less lethal support for mobile field force during civil unrest.

Selection for the SWAT team requires a minimum of two years of service with an officer's home agency, along with successful completion of a firearms qualification and a physical obstacle course.

In, 2025, LPD assigned four team members to the SWAT team, three operators and one crisis negotiator. Team members serve up to five years on the team and participate in monthly trainings to maintain their specialized skills.



Crime Scene Unit

The Lakeville Police Department's Crime Scene Unit (CSU) was established to provide specialized support for criminal investigations. Members of the CSU receive advanced training in various methods and techniques for processing crime scenes and gathering forensic and photographic evidence.

They process crime scenes using photography (both still images and drone video footage), alternative light sources, chemical methods and latent fingerprint examination. The unit also collects DNA and physical evidence, casts tool and footwear impressions and documents scenes using a Leica 3D scanner. The Crime Scene unit consists of 15 Officers and is overseen by a Sergeant. CSU members participate in numerous training exercises throughout the year to stay current with procedures and processing techniques recognized by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (MNBCA). The Crime Scene Unit has three dedicated squads for CSU Officers to use during patrol. Each squad is organized in the same way and contains all the necessary equipment to investigate and process a wide variety of crime scenes.



In 2025, the Crime Scene Unit played a crucial role in numerous investigations, effectively processing several high-profile, complex cases and helping identify and link suspects to crimes throughout the City of Lakeville. The unit plays a vital role in evidence collection for cases such as death investigations, physical and sexual assaults, thefts, burglaries, injury crashes, and search warrants. In total, the Crime Scene Unit processed 98 scenes in 2025.

Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) was established in 2004 to bridge the gap between patrol, investigations, and the drug task force, while providing specialized support for criminal investigations. The unit operates primarily in plain clothes and focuses on proactive enforcement. Their work includes surveillance, GPS tracking, use of confidential information and undercover operations.

Their goal is to assist patrol officers and detectives in solving crimes and increasing the quality of life for Lakeville residents. SCU regularly investigates burglaries, assaults, stolen vehicles, thefts, juvenile issues and drug related offenses. Additional duties the Street Crimes Unit performs include alcohol, tobacco and THC compliance checks, new construction related crimes, retail crime and predatory offender compliance checks.

In 2025, the Street Crimes Unit was assigned 167 cases for review/investigation and criminal charging. Since SCU handles so many different areas of investigations and compliance the unit's name was changed to Special Investigations Unit (SIU) in late 2025.

Drug Task Force

The Lakeville Police Department is a member of the Dakota County Drug/Violent Offender Task Force (DCDTF), with one officer assigned full time to the team. The DCDTF is a countywide partnership between local police agencies and the Dakota County Sheriff's Office. The DCDTF is a collaborative effort to stop the sale and spread of illegal narcotics and the violent crimes associated with drugs.

The task force's jurisdiction includes over 600 square miles, with a population of over 430,000. Each participating agency recognizes narcotic activity, part one violent crime offenses and the property crimes associated with such activity remain a top public safety concern. These offenses aren't limited to a specific geographical boundary or citizen demographic.

Goals of the Task Force are to prevent the illegal use and distribution of narcotics within the community through proactive enforcement and public awareness, while maintaining a zero tolerance philosophy. They assist their local departments in identifying and investigating gangs and violent offenders who commit many crimes within the community



Civil Unrest Team

The Civil Unrest Team is comprised of two Sergeants and 18 Officers. All team members receive ongoing training in basic maneuvers and techniques as a unit and they also conduct training exercises with partner agencies.

Drone Team

The Lakeville Police Department Drone Team has expanded their capabilities over the past year. The team consists of nine officers and a patrol sergeant who are all certified as Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) drone pilots.

They have access to three different drones depending on the situation. The DJI Mavic 3T and DJI Matrice 30T are used mainly for exterior use and have thermal capabilities. They also use a DJI Avata which is much smaller and used mainly for indoor use. They are one of the first teams in the area who can conduct operations by flying beyond the visual line of sight and can cover the entire city from one location.

The team flew for a total of 126 hours and had several successful missions including locating a suspect who fled a traffic stop on foot, a suspect on a disturbance who fled and was hiding under a camper and a welfare check where a family member was located. We have started the process of building our first drone response squad car, which is to be completed in 2026.



Community Engagement Team

Our Community Engagement Team (CET) is a dedicated group of officers, led by a sergeant, who are passionate about building meaningful connections within the community. Their primary goal is to actively engage with residents to foster trust, strengthen relationships, and encourage open dialogue.

In 2025, the team hosted and organized several community-focused events, including Movie on the Turf, the Young Citizens Academy, and Police, Pizza, and the Polar Express, creating positive opportunities for officers and families to connect outside of traditional law enforcement settings.

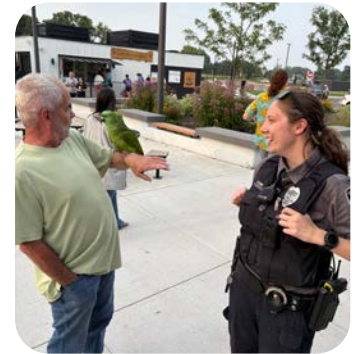


Community Service Officers

Community Services Officers (CSOs) assist the department by providing support in a variety of ways, including traffic control, animal-related calls, fingerprinting services, general public assistance and transport subjects to jail. Their flexibility allows sworn officers to remain available for priority calls while ensuring the community receives a quick response.



In 2025, this group experienced transition and growth. They saw one retirement and two part-time CSOs were hired on as full time police officers. A restructure followed that movement by establishing a full-time evening CSO position. The divisions current staffing includes three full-time CSOs, two part-time CSOs and four seasonal CSOs.



Reserves



At the Lakeville Police Department we are fortunate to have twelve reserve officers who volunteer their time to support LPD. Their division is supervised by a Reserve Liaison Officer and a Police Lieutenant. These individuals help support the agency by volunteering for events, patrolling and assisting with call-outs.



In 2025, they volunteered 2,053 hours for police department trainings and community events.

Administrative Services

The Administrative Services Division plays a critical role in department operations. The division is comprised of five Records Technicians, an Evidence Technician and a Records Compliance Specialist; all who are overseen by a Business Manager.

This team supports and assists both department personnel and the public by processing, maintaining and disseminating law enforcement records, as well as receiving and managing physical and digital evidence. This division also oversees the information management systems, while ensuring compliance and supporting users. Additionally, the division provides oversight of the Police Department's budget.



In 2025, the division answered 3,634 calls, assisted 2,866 lobby visitors and processed documents related with 5,328 cases. This group continues to be an essential division to our agency and they continue to provide excellent service to both internal personnel and the community.

Chaplains

At the Lakeville Police Department, we have eight volunteer chaplains who provide care, support and encouragement to those within our agency and our community. These individuals generously give their time to accompany officers on challenging calls and offer a compassionate presence. They each offer both emotional and spiritual support during difficult situations.



Russ Bacon



Dan Feldkamp



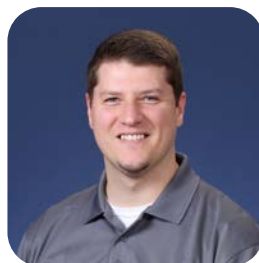
Larry Lotzer



Jim Marschall



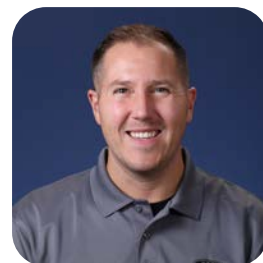
Deb Marzahn



Erik Poch



Jamie Thompson



Ryan Widdel

Department Wellness

Wellness continues to be a priority as we believe if we have healthy and happy individuals working here, there will be a resounding impact on the community and the quality of service we provide. Officers have access to multiple layers of support to ensure they are being met in the way they need.

While LPD has mandated annual wellness checks with a licensed clinician, we also offer other resources that are available 24/7 to our employees and their families. Some of the options available are highlighted below:

- Abijah's on the Backside
- LE-AST Services
- Cordico Wellness App
- Peer Support Program
- Fitness on Duty Program



LE•AST SERVICES
Wellness for Public Safety

Social Services Team

Following the creation of our Support Services Liaison officer position in 2024, our community has experienced significant success in expanding its support network and strengthening partnerships with external resources. LPD has partnered closely with Dakota County, with two Crisis Response Workers and an Embedded Social Worker who all are regularly at the agency and assist on follow-up mental health calls. In addition, we also partner with 360 Communities and have an Advocate who is an active resource and assists in providing services and support in domestic violence situations. These partnerships have been crucial in bringing resources together to support our community in many different ways.



Training

Our department remains committed to high-quality, ongoing training to ensure our officers are prepared to respond safely and effectively in all situations. As licensed peace officers, we are required to complete annual trainings set by the Peace Officers Skills and Training (POST) board. Here at the Lakeville Police Department we also encourage additional training for professional growth and supplemental assignments. The Professional Standards Lieutenant, who oversees all training, works closely with Sergeants who are assigned to lead the Defensive Tactics (DT) Team and the Firearms Team to ensure we meet state requirements and continue to uphold high standards.

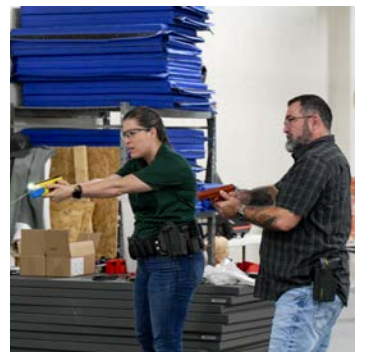
DT focuses on arrest and control techniques rooted in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. The DT Team also oversees all non-lethal and less-lethal tools, which includes the 40mm launcher, Taser, and PepperBall systems, and provides hands-on instruction multiple times throughout the year. Much of this training occurs on duty and is led by our own certified instructors during department in-service sessions.

The Firearms Team conducts regular range qualifications along with scenario-based exercises that emphasize accuracy and judgement.

In addition to the mandated training, on-duty training regularly covers de-escalation strategies, felony stops, report writing, case law updates, and other critical skills. Our officers also train on their specialty assignments within our agency, and we utilize outside training resources to maintain required certifications and ensure our officers continue to develop through a variety of professional training opportunities.

Our officers invest thousands of hours annually in training to ensure our department remains highly skilled and prepared to protect and serve the community. Below are some of the non-mandatory classes taken in 2025:

- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- School Resource Officer Class
- Forensic Interviews
- K-9 classes
- Warrant Writing
- Crime Scene
- Forensic DNA
- Narcotics
- SWAT
- Officer Safety/Survival
- Mobile Field Force



Training and Development



Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command: Sergeant Alex Johannes

Sergeant Johannes completed this intensive 10-week leadership development program in November. The program is designed to prepare experienced law enforcement professionals for senior command roles.

This accomplishment reflects his commitment to continued professional growth and to leading our organization with excellence.

2025 South Metro SWAT Operator of the Year: Officer Eric Craig

Officer Eric Craig was honored in December by the South Metro SWAT Team, receiving the distinguished Operator of the Year award.

This recognition is for individuals who consistently demonstrate exceptional tactical skill, leadership, dependability and commitment to team success.





FIRST Center

In March, ground was officially broken for the First Responder Skills and Training Center; which was formally the Lakeville Public Works building. Throughout 2025, the primary focus remained on the construction of the facility and the finalization of design for the various training and operational spaces.

This regional training facility is the first of its kind in the south metro area and represents a significant investment in the future of public safety. This center will help ensure our public safety personnel have the highest degree of training possible to serve their communities. The 40,000-square-foot facility will include the following features:

- Physical training area for fire, police and EMS
- Virtual training area
- Firing range training area with vehicle access
- Equipment cleaning and armory area
- Classroom/meeting space for fire, police and EMS
- Office space
- Restrooms/lockers
- Exterior training spaces
- Tactical training room with movable partitions for fire, police and EMS



The overall cost is \$25.8 million. Funding of \$7.1 million was awarded to this project through the 2023 Minnesota Legislature capital investment (cash funding) bill and an additional \$1.8 million was awarded through Federal Congressionally Directed Funding. The remaining cost of construction will be obtained through general obligation bonds.

In 2025, a membership structure was developed, offering three membership tiers: Capital, Preferred, and Institutional. In addition, the facility will also be available for first responder hourly rental across various training areas. Four local agencies have submitted interest in the Capital membership program, and those agreements are finalized.

Construction of the facility continued through the winter months following the first layer of asphalt and installation of the exterior walls. Since that time, the roof has been installed and the interior buildout and systems installation are in progress.

Throughout the year, local leadership has toured other regional training facilities, participated in planning meetings and made final design decisions. The project remains on schedule for a grand opening in mid-summer 2026.



Equipment

Tahoes

The Lakeville Police Department invested in several vehicle upgrades in 2025. The new builds have howler sirens that release low frequency tones alerting surround pedestrian and motorists of an approaching emergency vehicle. These are especially useful in high traffic volume areas similar to the ones we are now seeing in Lakeville during rush hour on main roadways.



The vehicles built in 2025 included:

- 10 Tahoe Patrol Vehicles
- 2 Crime Scene Unit Tahoes
- 5 Unmarked Police Vehicles
- 1 K-9 Patrol Tahoe

Panasonic Toughbooks

The department transitioned squad computers to Panasonic Toughbooks, giving officers durable, mobile technology that supports seamless work in the field and at the agency.



TRP Pepperball

In 2025, the department issued non-lethal TRP PepperBall launchers to patrol officers, with each launcher carried directly on the officer's person for immediate access in the field.

Lakeville Public Safety Foundation



The Lakeville Public Safety Foundation (LPSF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes public safety by enhancing the Lakeville Police Department and the Lakeville Fire Department by providing financial assistance for items not included in the City budget.

The Foundation was established in 2015 and through donations from local residents and businesses, they are able to give back to the public safety departments through grants. In 2025, we were granted a Polaris Ranger UTV in time for our annual Pan-O-Prog week and we were able to send two of our officers on a 250 mile bike ride honoring fallen hero's called the "Road to Hope".

The LPSF raises funds through their community focused events including a Bourbon and Cigars event and the Police and Fire Golf Tournament. These initiatives bring the community together to show support to our first responders and foster community engagement. The LPSF also hosts private appreciation events for our first responders, such as the Police and Fire Picnic and softball game hosted at Aronson Park, and the annual Police and Fire Ball hosted at Brackett's Crossing Country Club, where our 2025 Officer of the Year Mike Lamm was honored. The LPSF continues to find new opportunities to support our first responders in meaningful ways.



Community Events



Citizen's Police Academy

We started off the year hosting our annual eight-week classroom series in January and February. This class offers Lakeville residents an inside look at our agency through hands-on experiences.

Senior Scam Presentations

Throughout the year, officers visited our residential communities and shared the different red flags to watch for and how to avoid being a victim of scam artists.



LPD Open House

We kicked off the summer in May at our Open House. Guests were able to tour the booking facility, check out equipment, eat food and connect with us and our local partners.



Movie on The Turf

In June, we had a night on the turf at Lakeville North High School where the community came out to play games and watch *The Bad Guys*.



Community Events



Safety Camp

In August, we partnered with Lakeville Parks & Recreation to host a two day safety camp for kids aged 5-7.

National Night Out

August brought the annual National Night Out, where we were able to visit many neighborhoods and celebrate community.



Young Citizen's Academy

In November, we hosted young adults aged 16-20 for a two day career-exploration.

Police, Pizza and the Polar Express

We closed out the year with a new event in the Lakeville North High School Gym. This free family movie night was a great way to kick off the holiday season.



Photo Album

Pan-O-Prog

During Lakeville's week-long Pan-O-Prog festival in July, the Lakeville Police Department supported fourteen events, providing over 1,075 hours of service. Staffing included 41 police officers, 9 community service officers, and 15 reserve officers.



Photo Album

Community Engagement





9237 183rd Street, Lakeville, Minnesota
2025 Annual Report