STOUGHTON POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

January 2024 Police Department Report

2023 Last quarter highlights:

Karalyn Dehn and Derek Weum were hired as police officers. Officer Dehn previously worked at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Officer Derek Weum is enrolled in the 720 hour Basic Recruit Academy at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville with an anticipated graduation date of May 17th.

Officers continue to visit public schools on a regular basis. Our interactions with the school district have been positive. My hope is to revisit the school resource officer position and suggest a one year trial period. Officers worked extra patrol during athletic events including football and hockey.

Officer Hector Covarrubias left us in November after nine years of service after accepting a job with the City of Madison Police Department.

Canine Odin continues to progress as a versatile dog. Handler Officer PJ Johnson continues to attend training frequently and both dog and handler have formed a pretty tight bond.

Our annual Citizen's Police Academy was well received. Officer Craig Julseth coordinated and many staff members instructed various topics. The class used the firing range at Max Creek in Oregon and emergency vehicle operation at Blackhawk Technical School.

The department participated in several DOT Traffic Grants. The Seatbelt Grant is under way currently. The OWI and Speed Grants will follow later in the year. The Grants pay for overtime for the officers to focus on the specific grant.

The PD was represented at the Stoughton Fire Truck Parade.

Officer Chris Stachel organized the annual Shop with a Cop program which was held on December 9th, 2023. Through generous donations, the children were treated to a morning of food and shopping. Steller, Inc. again paid for all the purchases at Walmart. And we had pizza after wrapping the presents.

Cases of Interest:

On 11/28/2023, River Bluff Middle School was evacuated after a bomb and active threat call. The school was evacuated and students were reunited with parents/guardians at a pre-determined location. The call was a "swatting" incident.

On 12/19/2023, officers responded to the Whatever Bar as one customer had threatened another patron and displayed a pistol in their waistband. The suspect left however we were able to use the vehicle description given by witnesses to locate the vehicle on 12/23/23, at which time the female suspect was arrested.

See the attached summary with case numbers listed.

Department Training:

The total training hours logged in Q4 of 2023 was 430.5 hours in the below categories:

1st line leadership
LESB handgun qual course- all sworn
Glock armorer- we hosted
Intox recertification- almost all sworn
Basic evidence tech
Death investigations
New supervisor
Stressed and short staffed solutions
Supervision of police personnel
K9 medic
K9 legal update
K9 annual conference
K9 bi-monthly trainings
Investigating stalking cases
Constitutional law instructor update

Other

I attended October, November and December of the Dane County Chief's meetings. We are hosting the July 2024 meeting.

We continue to participate in various grant opportunities most revolve around intoxicated drivers and seatbelt enforcement.

We were able to start early on the policy overhaul, as Lexipol provided us with two additional months at no cost after signing on to their services for 2024.

All staff members will be required to attend a one hour session with a mental health professional in the first quarter of 2024.

In October, Detective Sgt. Sargent and I completed a walk through security assessment at Stoughton Hospital. In December, Lieutenants Hill and O'Neil and I had lunch and a security walk through at Cummins.

I have attached some statistics for you to review. One illustrates how each fourth quarter we have gotten busier. In 2020 we had 2241 calls for service. Then 2489 in 2021 and last year 2830 calls for service.

My staff is doing well. I think we are continuing to grow and understand the community's needs and our own dynamics. I continue to hold weekly meetings with supervisors. By doing so we have managed to establish a communication line that is very valuable.

If you have questions, please reach out to me.

Report respectively submitted,
Chief Daniel Jenks