



2020

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Courage • Integrity • Compassion*

ODESSA POLICE DEPARTMENT

310 E First Street

Odessa, MO 64076



# Odessa Police Department

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*A message from the*

# Chief



Wow, 2020! Is there much more to say?

2020 was a year that brought us a pandemic, social unrest, and many challenges. Yet, through all of 2020 the Police Officers and Civilian employees with the Odessa Police Department continued their pledge to bring the Odessa community “Service with Integrity.”

Our staff wore masks, showered ourselves and our equipment with disinfectant, wore every style of hazmat equipment available, took our temperatures before shifts, modified our work schedules, socially distanced ourselves from each other, and kept moving forward. Then, after the death of George Floyd, police departments nationally faced long-existing concerns and anger over policing practices within the criminal justice system. The Odessa community facilitated demonstrations and discussions with me and my staff in an effort to increase trust, transparency and accountability. Our staff had hard conversations, rolled up our sleeves, took an honest look at our abilities and moved forward.

The overall narrative surrounding law enforcement in Odessa was very positive. Locally our community recognized the type of policing that we represent, and the community continues to support our work. I consider our police department the “cream-of-the-crop” within our region. While we are not perfect (I often tell my staff we are human, and as such we make mistakes), I would put our policing efforts up against any other police department in the nation.

This comprehensive report will reflect upon the many activities and assignments the Odessa Police Department accomplished in 2020.

I am proud to serve Odessa. I am proud of the police officers and civilians within our organization who have shown resiliency, courage and dedication during a very challenging year. Our department’s success is directly tied to community involvement. By establishing partnerships with each other, we can understand one another, identify problems, and provide meaningful solutions.

Respectfully,

Josh Thompson, Chief of Police

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Odessa Police Department is to work in partnership with the community, to protect human life, safeguard property, respect and preserve the rights of all individuals equally, and endeavor to enhance the quality of life for all who live in Odessa.

### *Dedication*

to the community, this department, and one another

### *Respect*

for our residents, each other, and ourselves

### *Integrity*

in which our actions will reflect our honesty

### *Accountability*

to answer for our actions and decisions

### *Courage*

to be steadfast in the face of challenges

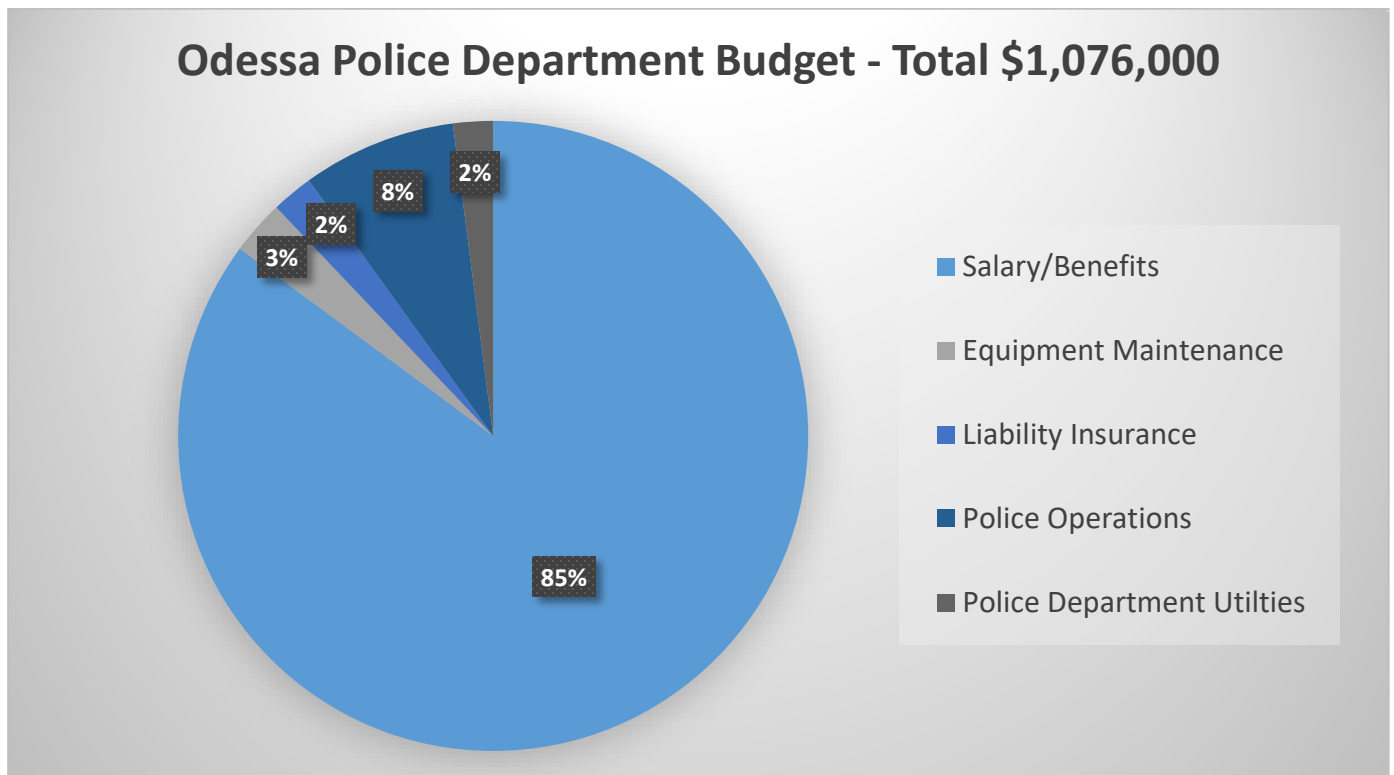
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# Police Department

The Odessa Police Department is responsible for police services to the City of Odessa, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This is accomplished with a staff of 11 full-time officers, one animal control/nuisance compliance officer, seven reserve officers, and one clerk working out of the police building located at 310 S First Street in Odessa.

The 11 commissioned officers include one Chief of Police, one Captain, one Lieutenant, two Detectives, one School Resource Officer, and five Police Officers. The fleet of police vehicles include seven marked police vehicles that are utilized for patrol and traffic enforcement, one specially marked vehicle used by the School Resource Officer, one Police K9 vehicle, and one truck used by the animal control/nuisance compliance officer.

Officer duties are varied. They are expected to investigate crime scenes, participate in community outreach programs and conduct traffic enforcement. They are responsible for patrolling neighborhoods and responding to a variety of calls for service ranging from noise complaints to family violence. The basic nature of an officer's job is both the most exciting and most dangerous because they never know what the next dispatched call or encounter will be. They must be alert at all times for their safety and the safety of the community they serve, while at the same time being an approachable servant to the citizens of Odessa.



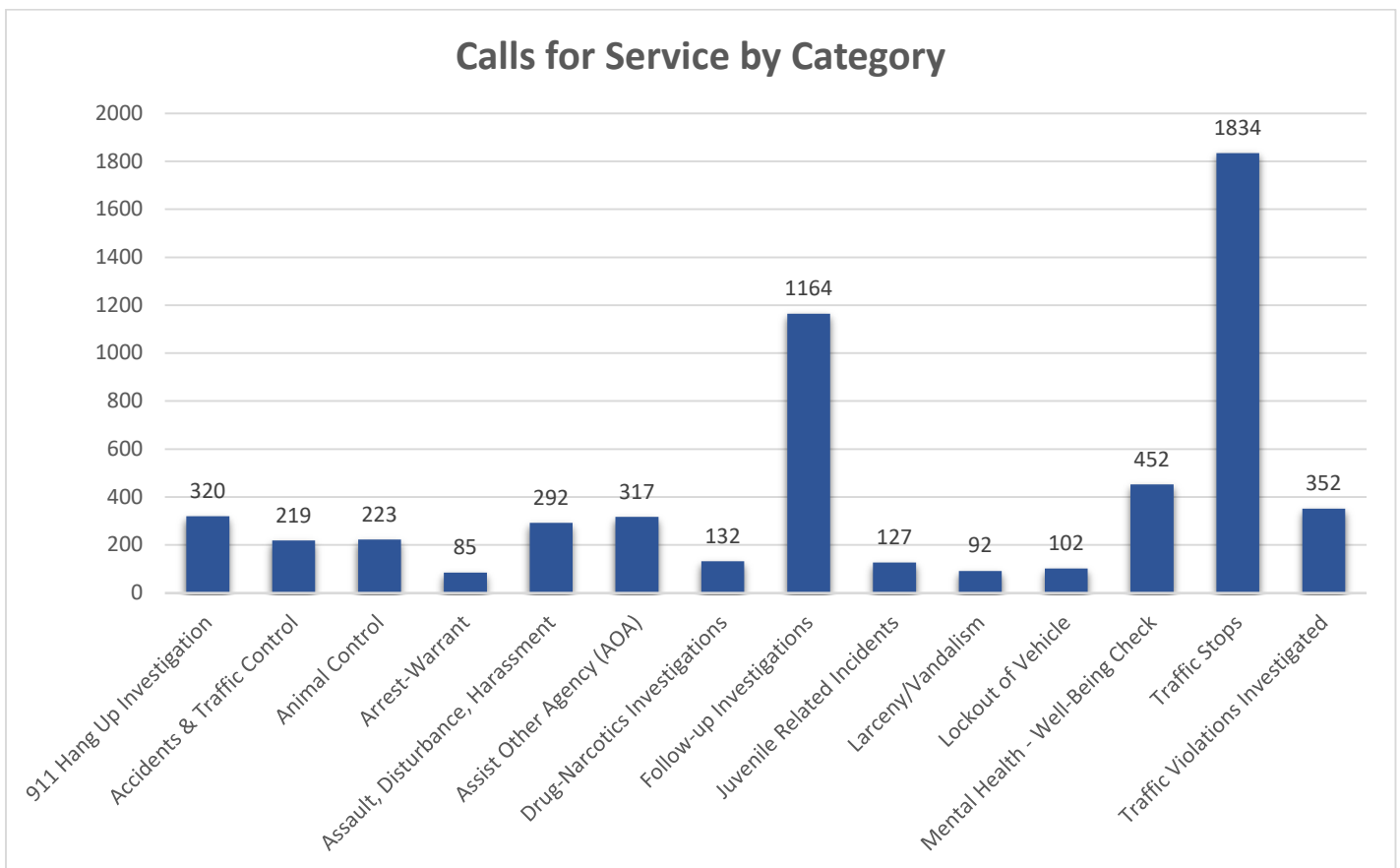
# Calls for Service

**7,558**  
CALLS FOR  
SERVICE

**4 MIN**  
AVERAGE  
RESPONSE  
TIME

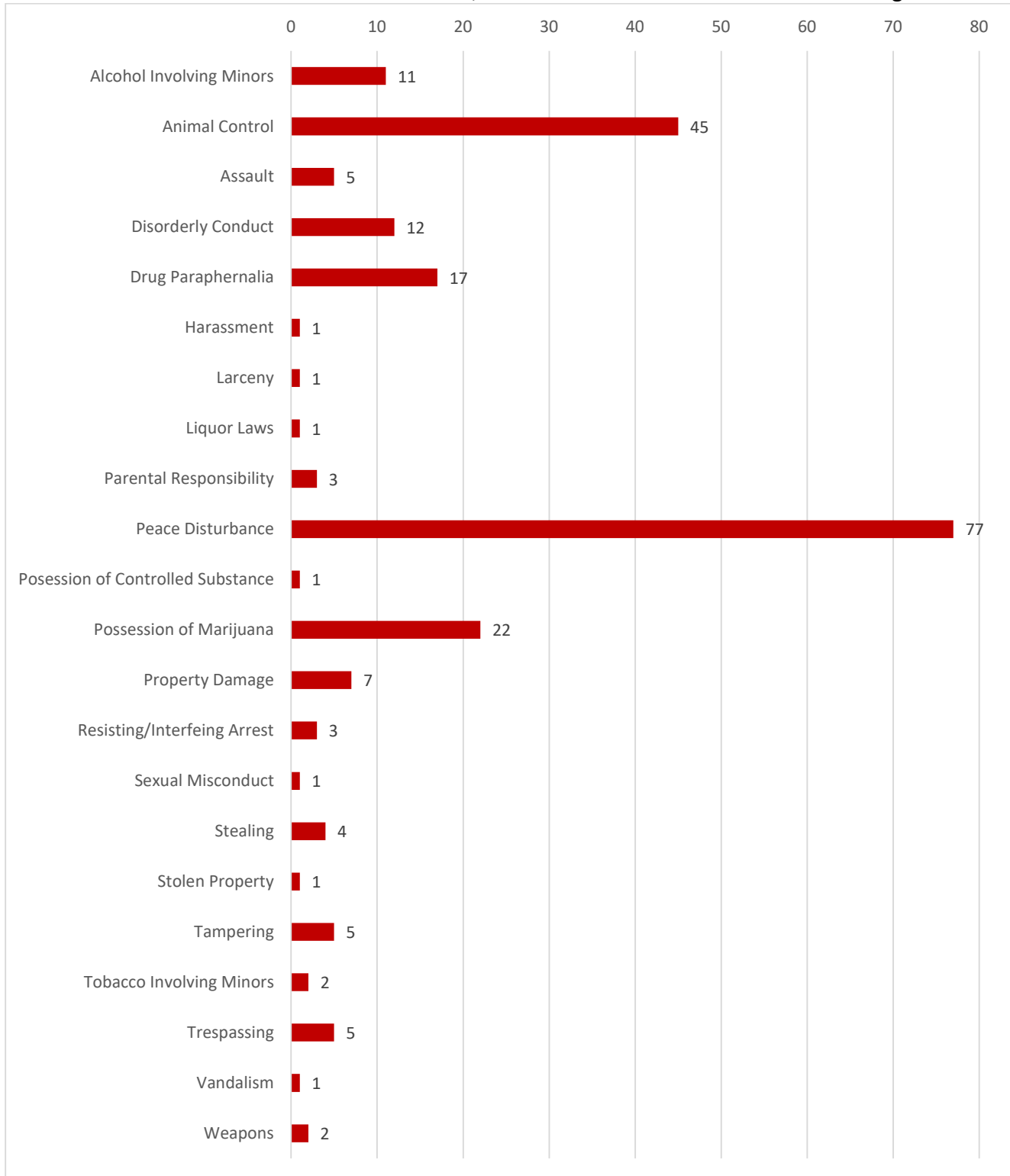
**27 MIN**  
AVERAGE  
TIME ON  
SCENE

In 2020, the Odessa Police Department received 7,558 calls for service with an average response time of 4 minutes and an average of 27 minutes spent on scene. Our officers receive a wide variety of calls ranging from simple ordinance violations, to business checks, to assaults. The chart below doesn't show every category of calls received but rather some of the more frequent and/or notable.



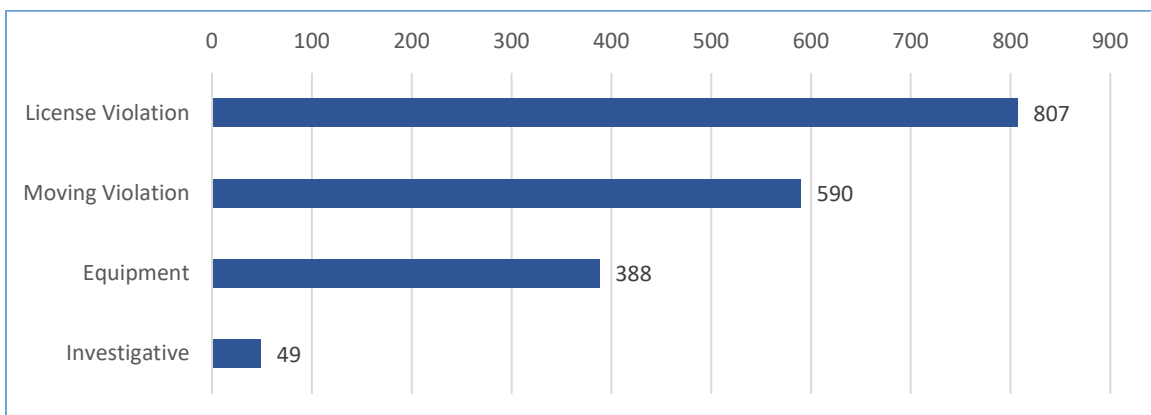
# Non-Traffic Citations Issued

Please note that many incidents investigated by the Odessa Police Department are not issued city tickets but rather sent to the State Prosecutor's Office. In 2020, 173 cases were State submitted and charged.



# Traffic Analysis

Our officers conducted 1,834 traffic stops in 2020. Of those stops, approximately 1 out of 4 were given citations. In addition, the majority of those stops were drivers that lived outside of Odessa city limits, with only 679 (37%) residents of our jurisdiction. License violations (ie, expired plates) were the primary reason for stops, followed by moving violations (ie, speeding, stop sign violation, etc), equipment (ie, light out), and investigative.

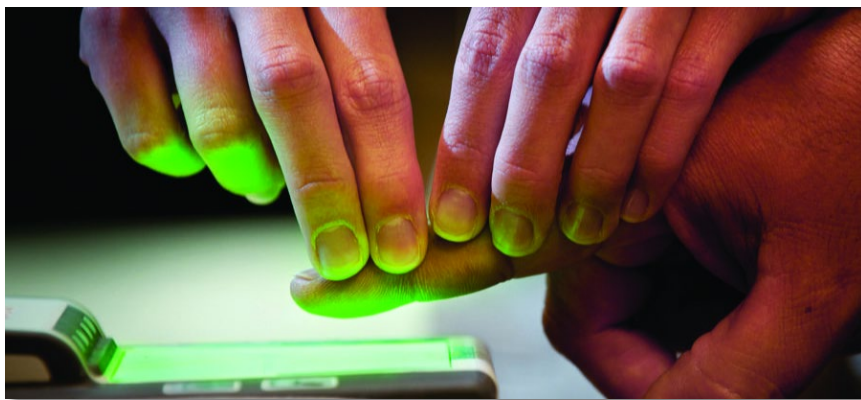


# Training

The City of Odessa Police Department takes an active role in ensuring all of its employees receive professional, proficient and quality training. The Peace Officer Standards and Training Program (POST) requires sworn officers to complete a minimum of 24 hours of Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) every year. This training includes legal studies, technical studies, racial profiling, interpersonal perspectives, skill development, and firearms. In most cases, Odessa officers average 40-50 hours of continuing education.

Due to COVID-19, many of the training classes and conferences in 2020 were postponed or cancelled. Midwest Public Risk (MPR) offered on-line training and several in-serving training classes were offered to the department. Some of the training completed in 2020 included:

- Law Enforcement Block Grant compliance training
- Taser recertification
- Intox-DMT maintenance training
- Missouri Tactical Officers Association conference
- Drug Interdiction and Investigation course
- Firearms Training/Qualifications twice a year
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)
- Missouri Investigators Association conference
- Midwest Public Risk (MPR) Law Enforcement Liability Committee meeting
- LiveScan digital fingerprinting training





# Department Grants

Annually, the Odessa Police Department applies for law enforcement grants to assist our department. The applications are submitted to sponsoring agencies for approval and issuance.

In January of 2020, we were awarded \$8,796.06 through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant to purchase equipment for our patrol vehicles such as light bars, gun racks, and center consoles for siren box/computer mount.



In September of 2020, we were awarded the State Homeland Security Program grant in the amount of \$28,377.85 to assist in public safety radio communications upgrades.



# K9 Unit

The Odessa Police Department K9 Unit was established in the summer of 2019 thanks to the generous donations of our community. K9 Officer Derek Zarda and Hawkeye had a busy year in 2020. Below are some of the many achievements made by this dynamic duo.



# Community Involvement

The Odessa Police Department strives to bring quality of life to the community and citizens we serve, which includes giving back to the community and those in need. It is important for us to engage with the residents of Odessa proactively rather than only in a reactionary way. Community policing is a collaborative effort that seeks to unite police officers with the community to address issues together. Many of our normal events that take place in the community were cancelled due to COVID-19 in 2020, but here are a few activities that took place:

On June 12, Captain Liese conducted his annual security discussion and training at Central Bank. Items discussed were indicators to look for to identify potential thieves and how to respond in the event of a robbery.

On September 24, Chief Thompson spoke with staff at New Haven Nursing home regarding COVID-19 procedures. The conversation also included current protective measures and personal protective equipment for nursing home staff.

In our efforts to keep illegal drugs off our school campus, the Police Department worked in cooperation with school administration to conduct K-9 drug sniffs at OHS and OMS. On October 5, police dogs from the Odessa Police Department, Lafayette County Sheriff's Office and Higginville Police Department gathered at Odessa school facilities and conducted the search. We're happy to report no illegal contraband was discovered.

On October 24, we participated in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day campaign. According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.9 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. The DEA's Take Back Day events provide an opportunity for Americans to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. Odessa residents are able to safely dispose of their unwanted and/or unused prescription drugs here at the Odessa Police Department.

On November 18, Captain Liese and Detective Reitz attended the Odessa Chamber lunch and were able to speak to the group about the work our police department is conducting involving narcotics investigation within our community.



# Accomplishments/Recognitions



The Odessa Police Department renewed our annual Animal Care Facility license with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. This license is necessary to operate our City Dog Pound. With COVID-19 precautions, our numbers were a bit lower than usual with an intake of 39 dogs resulting in one transfer to a rescue group, four adoptions, and the remaining 34 dogs reunited with their owners.

Our police clerk, Jenny Riedl, took over property room responsibilities. It is common for civilian police employees to manage property rooms, and Jenny completed online training through the International Association for Property and Evidence.

A 911 emergency call box was installed on the front of the police department. This emergency call box is ADA compliant and allows someone to reach 911 dispatch in an emergency if officers are on a call and not at the police department building.

Our LiveScan digital fingerprinting instrument was installed in May. LiveScan helps in avoiding many of the problems associated with ink prints, such as smudging, smearing, and over or under inking. In addition, it captures fingerprints in a digitized format that is transmitted directly to a state repository.



After a competitive search, Austin Summitt was hired as a full-time police officer to bring our roster to full staff. Officer Summitt graduated from the Central Missouri Police Academy at the University of Central Missouri and began his field training with the Odessa Police Department in December.



Police clerk, Jenny Riedl, was recognized as our first recipient of the Odessa Police Department's new Bob Kinder Police Employee of the Year Award. Jenny received this award for her exemplary service in 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jenny was the go-to-person for promoting the City of Odessa, the Odessa community and Lafayette County on the City's website and social media. Her communication skills encompass problem solving, planning, and organizational performance, and she has displayed professionalism and effectiveness throughout the year.



# ODESSA

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### City of Odessa Police Department

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***Dial 911 in an Emergency***

