



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Courage • Integrity • Compassion

ODESSA POLICE DEPARTMENT

**310 S First Street
Odessa, MO 64076**



Odessa Police Department

310 S First Street • Odessa, MO 64076

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A message from the Chief



I am happy to present the 2023 Police Annual Report on behalf of all the police department staff. This report reflects the commitment and hard work each of us provide to the Odessa community!

Feeling safe in our community is very important, and it is my role to provide leadership in creating a community that is free of crime. Every Odessa resident wants to feel safe from becoming a victim of crime, and that is why I believe in a strong communication channel between our police department and the Odessa community. Police staff are accessible and provide open dialogue so that residents feel they have a role in protecting their communities.

I ensure that each employee within the department has comprehensive knowledge of the City's expectations. I've completed assessments of current police activities, training and standards, equipment care, advances in technology, and preparedness for events of critical or mass incidents that must be a routine event. Police officers should possess the skills of attentiveness, reliability, responsiveness, competence, manners, and fairness. These represent the cornerstones in developing a solid relationship between the public and police department, as well as strong links with surrounding jurisdictions as a regional approach to crime prevention. I value the residents of this community and the relationships police staff have built along with the cooperative efforts between the department and our elected officials. I feel most accomplished when I see a vibrant, active, and social community that is engaging with the local police department.

During 2023, the police officers and civilian employees with the Odessa Police Department continued their pledge to bring the Odessa community "Service with Integrity." This service has brought many positive community projects. The expanded school resource officer program and the planning and design of a new criminal justice center are at the top of this list. But I'm also pleased with our department's efforts to help those in mental crisis. Our CIT and Veterans suicide prevention programs are very comprehensive, and I am grateful for our partnerships with many organizations to help those in need.

I am proud to serve Odessa, and I am proud of the police officers and civilians within our organization who continue to show resiliency, courage, and dedication. 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.

This comprehensive annual report will reflect upon the many activities and assignments the Odessa Police Department accomplished in 2023. We encourage you to follow us on social media to stay informed of our many achievements and events throughout the year.

Respectfully,

Josh Thompson, Chief of Police

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

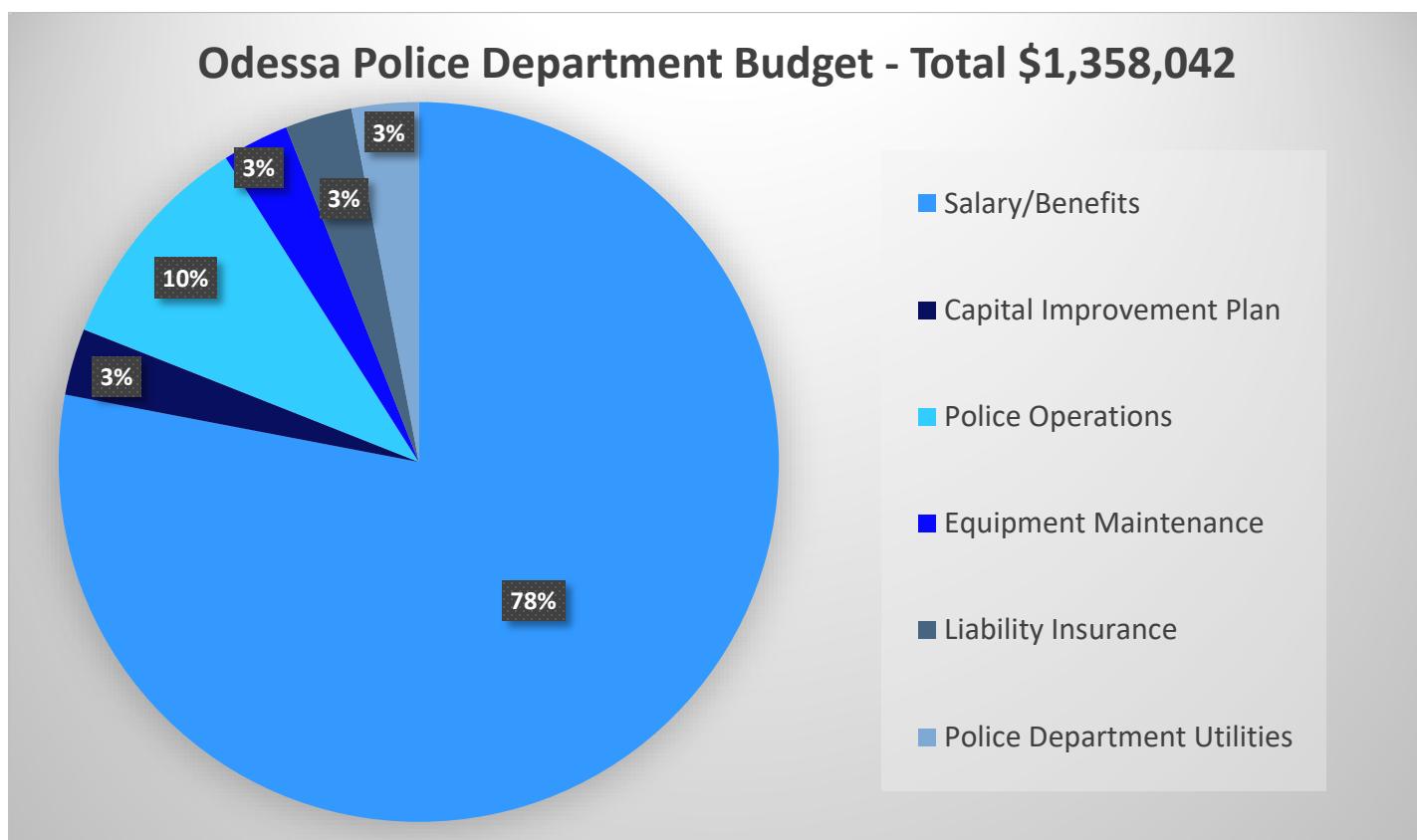
to be steadfast in the face of challenges

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 14 full-time officers, five reserve officers, one animal control/nuisance compliance officer, and one police clerk, all working out of the building located at 310 S First Street in Odessa.

The 14 commissioned officers include one Chief of Police, one Captain, two Lieutenants, one Sergeant, four School Resource Officers, and five Police Officers, as well as Hawkeye, our K9 Officer. The fleet of vehicles includes nine vehicles that are utilized for patrol and traffic enforcement, four specially marked vehicles used by the School Resource Officers, one Police K9 vehicle, and one truck used by an 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.



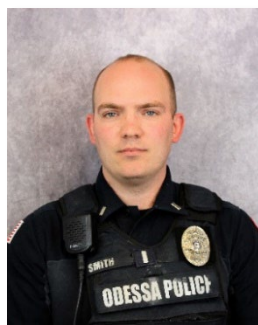
Department Roster



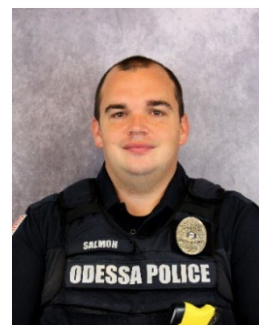
Josh Thompson
Chief of Police



Leland "Bubba" Liese
Captain



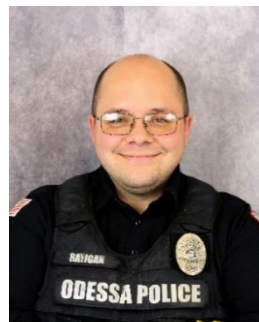
Cody Smith
Lieutenant



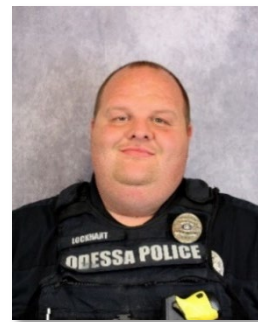
Phillip Salmon
Lieutenant



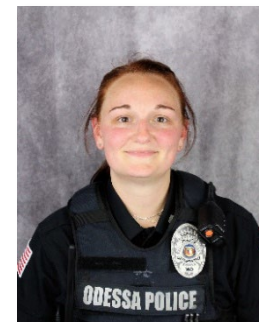
Greg Daniel
School Resource Officer



Dyllan Ratigan
School Resource Officer



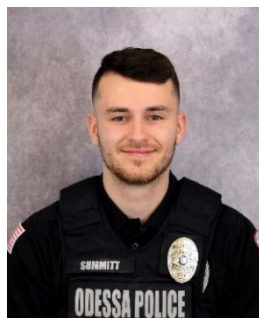
Andrew Lockhart
School Resource Officer



Samantha Bell
School Resource Officer



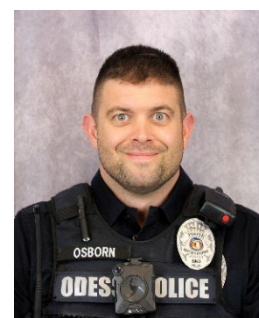
Derek Zarda
Patrol Sergeant



Austin Summitt
Patrol Officer



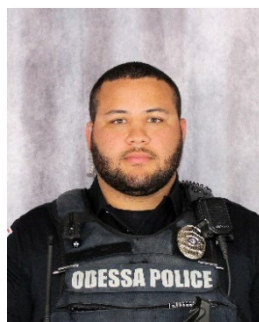
Daniel Melchioris
Patrol Officer



Mat Osborn
Patrol Officer



Ty Bell
Patrol Officer



Kane Dobson
Patrol Officer



Kim Wood
Animal Control/Codes

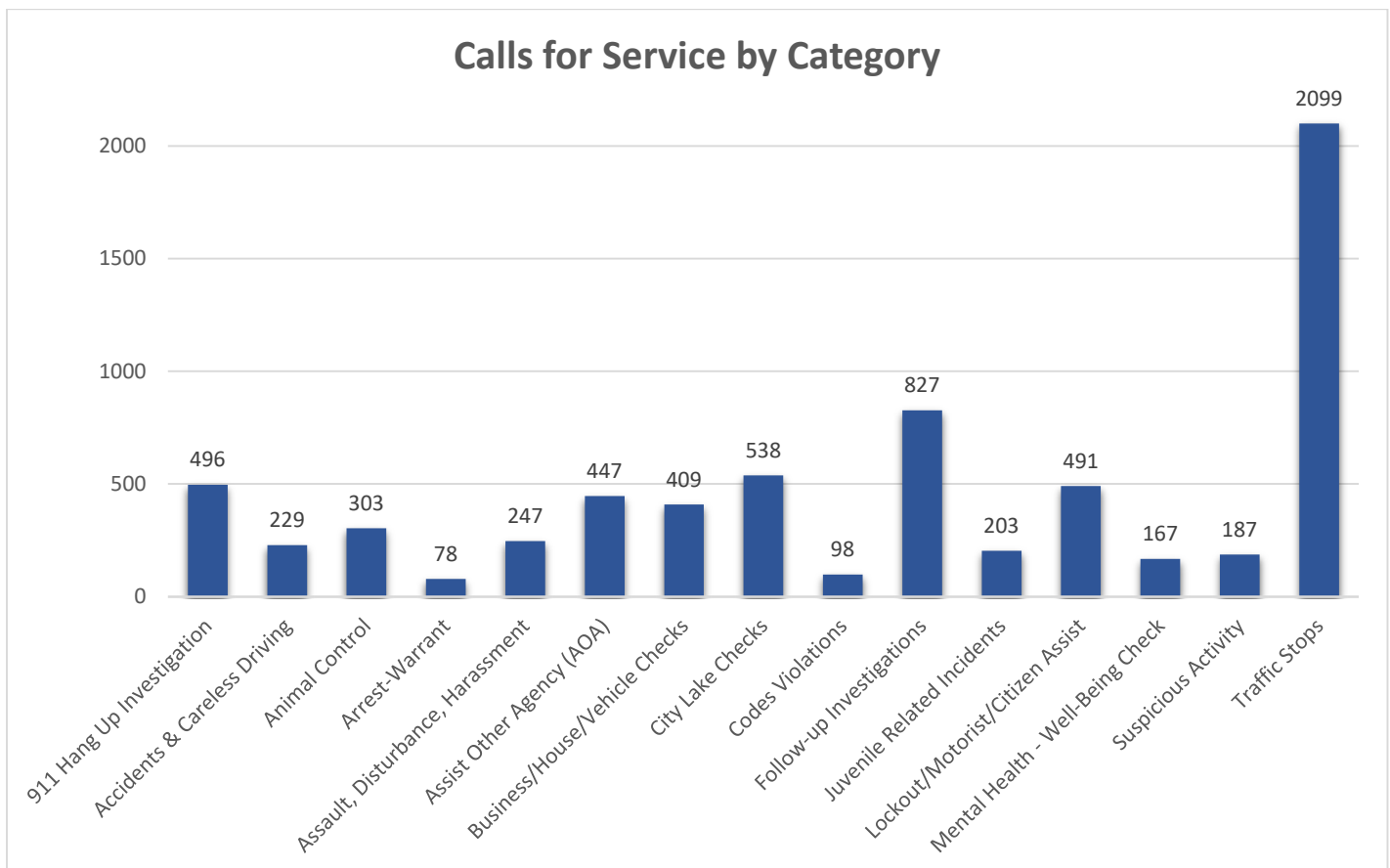


Jenny Riedl
Police Clerk

Calls for Service

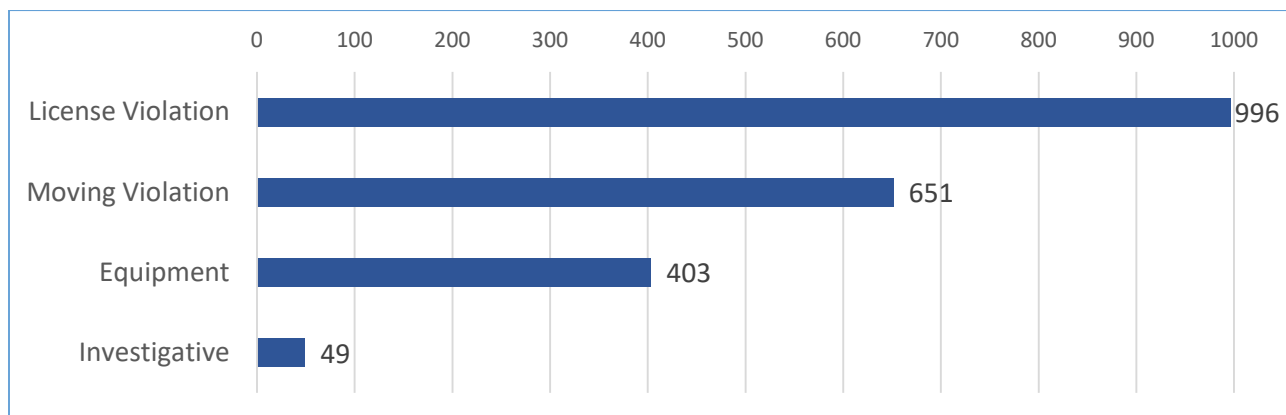


In 2023, the Odessa Police Department received 8,257 calls for service, compared to 7,939 calls for service in 2022. The average response time was 2 minutes with an average of 28 minutes spent on scene. Our officers receive a wide variety of calls ranging from simple ordinance violations, to business checks, to assaults. The chart below doesn't show every category of calls received but rather some of the more frequent and/or notable ones.



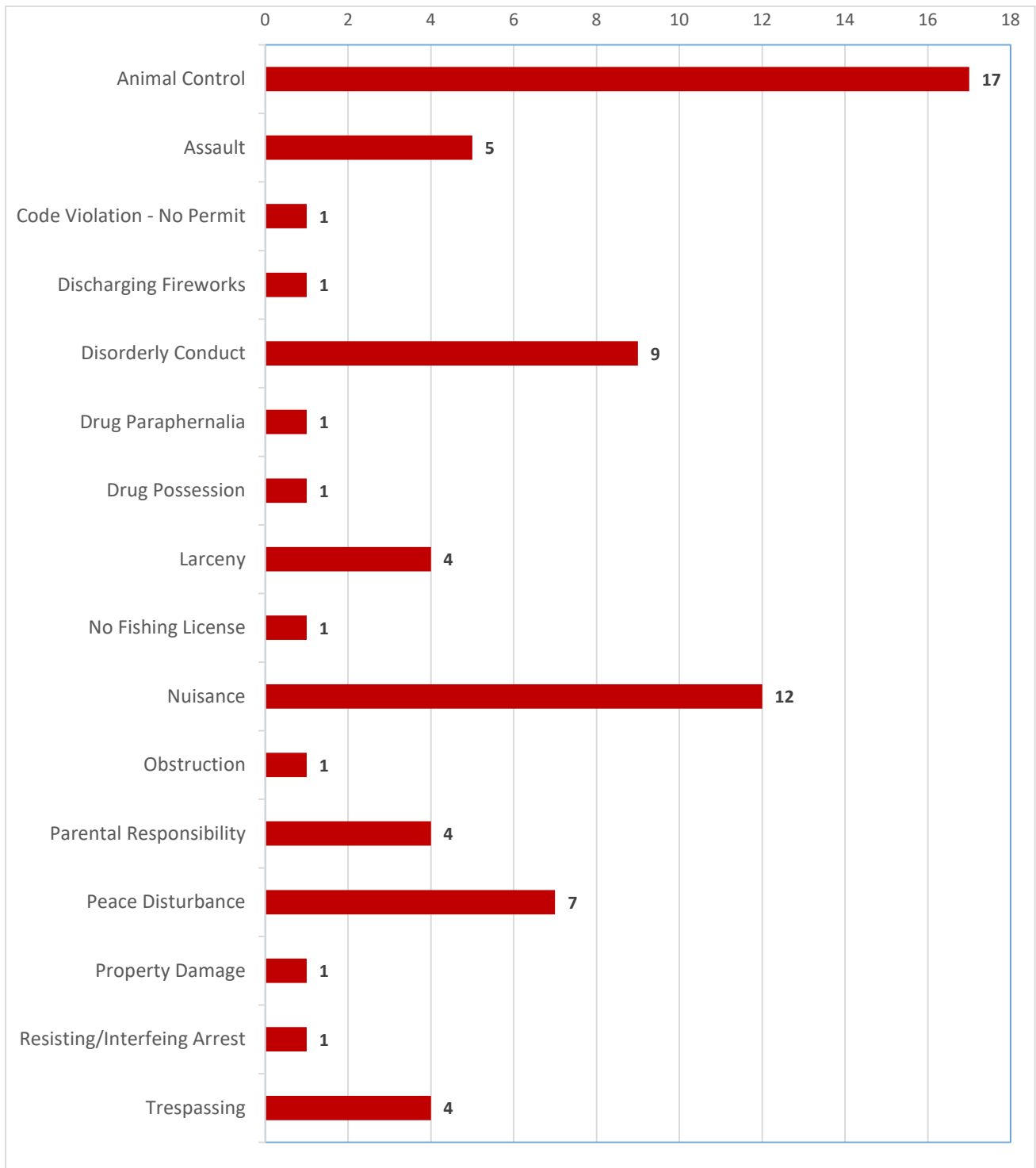
Traffic Analysis

Our officers conducted 2,099 traffic stops in 2023, compared to 2,069 in 2022, and 2,472 in 2021. Of those stops, approximately 1 out of 5 were given citations. In addition, the majority of those stops were drivers that lived outside of Odessa city limits, with about 39% living within 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, brake light out), and investigative.



Non-Traffic Citations Issued

The chart below shows the types of citations issued in 2023 that were not traffic-related. 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 2023, 91 cases were submitted to the State for charges.



Property & Evidence

The Odessa Police Department's Property and Evidence staff is charged with maintaining the integrity of all items taken into custody per department policies as well as state and federal laws. Each piece of property must be checked in, entered into a records management computer system, packaged into the proper storage container, put away in its correct and secure location, and then maintained as long as needed for the case.

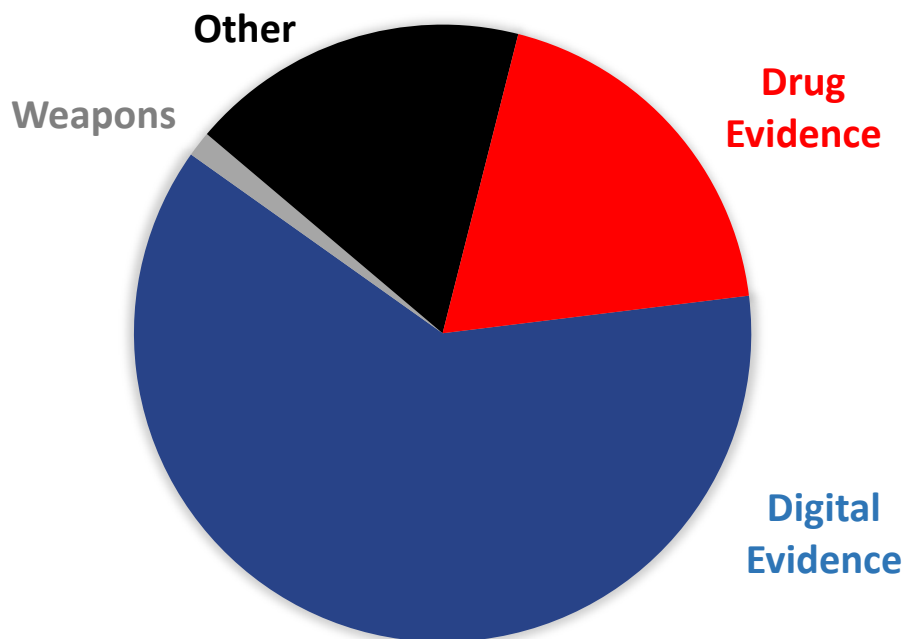
Detailed records of transactions involving items of evidence are maintained to preserve the "chain of custody" – the documentation of the continuous custody of items submitted as evidence. All items entered into our system are given a barcode for tracking and to maintain detailed records needed to present evidence in court. Security measures are also in place to ensure restricted access to property and evidence. In addition, property and evidence staff manage the department's successful prescription drug disposal program twice a year.

25 PIECES
OF EVIDENCE SENT
TO MSHP CRIME LAB

4,000+
TOTAL PIECES OF EVIDENCE
AND PROPERTY SECURED

OVER 60
POUNDS OF PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS COLLECTED &
SAFELY DISPOSED

225 PIECES OF EVIDENCE RECEIVED IN 2023



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 every year. Some of the training completed in 2023 included:

- Taser recertification
- Courtroom Testimony Course
- School Resource Officer Training
- Firearms Training/Qualifications
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training
- Tactical Medicine for Patrol
- DARE Instructor Course
- Vehicle Crash Reporting Software Training
- PepperBall® Weapon Training
- Missouri Police Canine Association Workshop
- FEMA Community Emergency Response Team Training
- International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference
- Missouri Animal Control Association Conference



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 2023, we were notified that we were awarded the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant in the amount of **\$3,799**. This grant is designed to offer funds to purchase officer safety equipment. We will use this award to purchase a prisoner transport system for the 2020 Dodge Durango police vehicle, and this grant will fund 100% of that project.

In May of 2023, we accepted a grant check from MFA Charitable Foundation in the amount of **\$2,500.00**. We were also notified that we would be receiving funds from the Show-Me Zero MoDOT Coalition for Roadway Safety. The amount has yet to be disclosed. Both of these grants will assist with expanding our radar speed sign program into other areas of the community.

In July of 2023, new police radios were installed into our police vehicles. These vehicle radios were 100% purchased with grant funds awarded with Homeland Security funds. The grant was valued at **\$44,605.53**. The newly deployed radios help with our homeland security mission and fully implement Missouri's communication regionalization and interoperability.



In July of 2023, Odessa was awarded additional grant dollars through Destination Safe sponsored by the Mid-America Regional Council and the Missouri Department of Transportation. These funds will be used to deploy an additional radar enforcement sign. Feedback from the community and data from the radar sign program is exceptional as signs are assisting in reducing speeds and making drivers more conscious of aggressive driving habits.

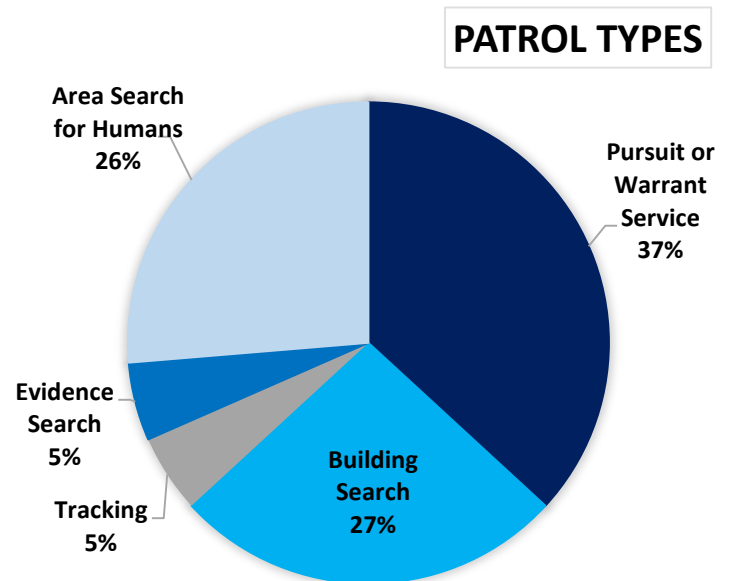
In October of 2023, we acquired a special response armored vehicle donated free of charge through the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety. The Police Department's intended use will be for special response situations where an armored vehicle would be required to protect responding officers. The Crisis Action Team (SWAT) is a multi-jurisdictional special weapons and tactics team utilized in Lafayette County, Missouri. The Crisis Action Team responds to emergency cases of active critical incidents, hostage rescue, and barricaded armed suspects. The Odessa Police Department is part of this multi-jurisdictional team. In addition, the Odessa Police Department includes the emergency management function of the City of Odessa. This vehicle will greatly increase protection, search and rescue activities, and the evacuation of casualties from natural disaster situations. The vehicle will undergo mechanical checks and officers will receive training prior to the vehicle deployment.

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 2023 with an increase in deployments from 29 in 2022 to 35 in 2023. Below are some of the many achievements made by this dynamic duo.



Drugs found during K9 alert searches in 2023 resulted in the confiscation of 40 grams of methamphetamine and two paraphernalia items.



School Resource Officers

The Odessa R-VII School District encompasses over 333,000 square feet of school facilities including McQuerry Elementary School, Upper Elementary, Middle School, High School, Ag Building, and the Childcare Center. At the beginning of 2023, the Odessa Police Department had two School Resource Officers (SROs) in the district, with shared responsibilities between all school buildings and campuses. SRO Greg Daniel has been deployed in the district for seven years, and SRO Dyllan Ratigan began in October of 2022. In June of 2023, the school district voted to fund an additional two SRO positions with the assistance of a grant from the Lafayette County Children's Services Fund. Officer Andrew Lockhart made a lateral move from patrol over to an SRO position. In addition, Samantha (Sam) Bell, previously a deputy with the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office, was hired to fill the fourth SRO position.

The deployment assignments for the Odessa School Resource Officers are (left to right):

*SRO Andrew Lockhart – McQuerry Elementary
SRO Dyllan Ratigan – Upper Elementary
SRO Samantha Bell – Middle School
SRO Greg Daniel – High School*



Our School Resource Officers maintain an open and interactive relationship with students and strive to provide a positive image of law enforcement and prevent crime from occurring on school property. They also instruct the D.A.R.E. program to 5th-grade students every year and work security after-hours at various school events.



The D.A.R.E. program provides children with an opportunity to learn and practice good decision-making skills to lead safe and healthy lives. Prior to graduation from the program, students are asked to write an essay about the D.A.R.E. program and what they learned. The essay winners for 2023 were Josie Boldridge, Cora Gassen, Rilynn Hibler, Paige Marble, Farrah Morgan, and Lila Wright with Audra Shippy as the top winner. The winners received a 10-day pool pass for the Odessa Aquatic Center with the top winner receiving a season pass. In addition, the 2023 D.A.R.E. shirts were designed by two students – Draven Pittman (front of the shirt) and Cora Shippy (back of the shirt) – who each received Sonic gift cards. Congratulations to all of the D.A.R.E. graduates.

Winning D.A.R.E. Essay

D.A.R.E. means Drug, Abuse, Resistance, and Education. This is the acronym that helps you in different situations. The D.A.R.E. program tells you all the different health effects of drugs, cigarettes, and alcohol. If you come across these things it is dangerous and D.A.R.E. helps you make the right choice. It is very useful to people that have dealt with drug abuse. It helps them know what to do in this situation. I have really enjoyed the D.A.R.E. program and plan to use it when I need it.

Some things I have learned in D.A.R.E. are the different effects of drug use. Did you know that there are 75,000 alcohol-related deaths each year in the USA alone? Did you know that nicotine in cigarettes and chewing tobacco lessens blood flow to the brain? Another thing that I have learned is the 5 W's, who, what, when, where, and why. This helps you when someone is bullying you. It makes sure that you have lots of evidence when telling a trusted adult. We have also learned about peer pressure and how to react in that moment. Like if someone is telling you to do something you know is not right. The 5 W's are very useful.

The D.A.R.E. decision-making model has helped lots of people in many ways. It helps you think about the situation more than you would usually. For example, if someone is telling you to do drugs or drink alcohol it allows you to think, and then make the right choice. In the D.A.R.E. the book gives you different real life ideas for helping people that have been exposed to these things. It helps them make the right choice.

I can make safe and responsible choices by using the D.D.M.M. We talked about examples of solutions that you learn in D.A.R.E. class. Then we connected them to the real world. The D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model allows you to handle events that you wouldn't normally be able to handle without the D.D.M.M. It has definitely helped me handle different decisions that would normally be hard to make.

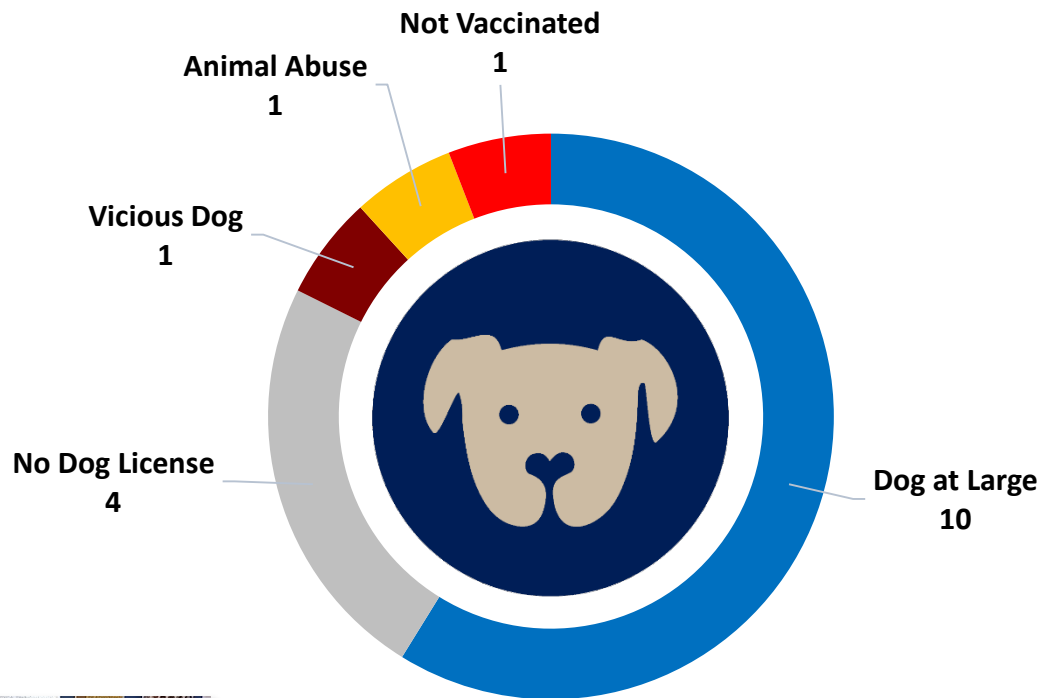
In the end, I have really enjoyed the D.A.R.E. program. Also, all the fun things that we have done. I have learned so much in the D.A.R.E. program. I think everyone that has done the D.A.R.E. program has loved it in some way. This will be something that I will remember and think about next time I am in a situation.

Audra Shippy

Animal Control and Codes Enforcement

The Animal Control Officer/Nuisance Compliance Officer has two primary responsibilities in serving the community: 1) protect the health and safety of our residents and animals while promoting responsible pet ownership, and 2) encourage compliance with the city's code of ordinances regarding nuisances to promote clean, safe, and appealing neighborhoods.

In 2023, there were 303 animal control calls for service and 98 calls regarding nuisances/codes. From all of the non-traffic related citations issued, the highest categories were animal control with 17 tickets, and nuisance/codes with 13 tickets. The breakdown of the 17 animal control citations are as follows:



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.

In 2023, we had an intake of 67 dogs compared to 61 in 2022 and 69 in 2021. Of those, the majority (58) were returned to their owners, eight were adopted, and one was euthanized as recommended by a veterinarian due to severe illness.

Lafayette County Law Enforcement Day

D.A.R.E. students from all over Lafayette County celebrated their graduation with festivities on Law Enforcement Day at Fairground Park in Higginsville. They watched SWAT presentations, K9 demonstrations, interacted with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, learned about the role of Missouri Conservation Officers, and watched while the fire department responded to a car on fire, first dousing the car and then dousing the kids. Everyone had a great time!



National Night Out

In August of 2023, we hosted our third National Night Out! This is a national event that takes place annually on the first Tuesday in August as a fun way to increase neighborhood spirit and improve police-community partnerships. The goal is to enhance the relationship between residents and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community, making our neighborhoods safer, and more caring places to live.

We truly appreciate everyone who came out to Dyer Park and braved the heat to join us at this fun event. In addition to our department, the Odessa Fire & Rescue Protection District, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Lafayette County Prosecutor's Office, and Odessa City Utilities were in attendance. Everyone was able to meet their local first responders and enjoy an evening of free swimming.



Shop with a Cop

The Odessa Police Department held its 2nd Annual Shop with a Cop event. We had a great time spending time with 28 Odessa children and helping make their Christmas wishes come true. Everyone headed out that morning to the Oak Grove Walmart where each child was able to spend up to \$200 on gifts for themselves and their families. Walmart also donated a holiday meal to each family. After shopping, we all returned to the Odessa Community Building to eat pizza and cookies. And then the kids were treated to a special visit from Santa himself! We truly appreciate all of the local businesses and volunteers who made this event possible with their generous donations and services – we couldn't have done it without you. It was such a great day with lots of smiles and holiday cheer!



Accomplishments/Recognitions



School Resource Officer Andrew Lockhart was recognized as the 2023 Odessa Police Department's Bob Kinder Police Employee of the Year. All full-time police department employees provide nominations of a co-worker for this award. Submissions are evaluated on the employee's service to the department, the City of Odessa organization, and the Odessa community.

Officer Lockhart is dedicated to the community, is professional in his demeanor, and always has a positive attitude – making him a valuable asset to the agency. He has

made many positive influences in the Odessa community through his crisis intervention work and most recently his dedication to the staff and students in the Odessa R7 School District. He demonstrates compassion and care for others in all his efforts. Here are just a few comments received from Officer Lockhart's co-workers, "Andrew has a true compassion for helping people...the children at the schools respond wonderfully to Andrew...Andrew has worked hard to try to learn every student's name...Andrew is always smiling and a happy co-worker...the children love Andrew and Andrew loves them...even before Andrew moved over to SRO he worked more calls for service, stopped more vehicles, took more reports, and submitted more cases for prosecution than any other police officer in the department." Thank you Officer Lockhart for your service, and congratulations on your achievement!

School Resource Officer Dyllan Ratigan attended the DARE Instructor course which will allow him to teach both elementary and middle school evidence-based curriculum to students. SRO Ratigan was awarded a distinguished instructor award while attending this course.

We had two promotions within the department in 2023. Detective Phillip Salmon was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Salmon has the responsibility of supervising the School Resource Officer program, detectives, animal control and codes enforcement. Lt. Salmon has supervisory experience and tremendous knowledge in investigations. He will work closely with the department's Captain and Chief.



In addition, Detective Derek Zarda was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Zarda will be a great first line supervisor and will be an exceptional addition to our command team. He will also continue his duties as K9 Handler and will partner with Hawkeye with added duties of patrol supervision.



Odessa was ranked the 12th Safest City in Missouri for 2023! This award was published by Safewise Group (a residential safety consulting group). Safewise Group publishes the top 20 safest cities in each state every year. The ranking is based on data reported monthly to the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Uniform Crime Reporting system. The Odessa Police Department solves and clears over 59% of our cases, well above the State average of 30%.

In September of 2023, the Missouri State Highway Patrol was on-site at the police department to complete our audit. Audits of CJIS information are required for jurisdictions requesting and using criminal justice information to assist with investigations. The Odessa Police Department participates in several CJIS programs. The audit was completed successfully without any issues.

The Odessa Police Department was selected to receive the 2023 Community Betterment Award from the Odessa Missouri Chamber of Commerce. This award is given to an individual, business, or organization that has worked over the past year to significantly improve the community.



Community Involvement

The Odessa Police Department strives to bring the 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. In addition to some of our larger events such as Law Enforcement Day, National Night Out, and Shop with a Cop, we had numerous positive interactions with the residents of Odessa throughout 2023.

In March, Officer Austin Summitt “volunteered” to be the Odessa Police Department representative at the Odessa Project Grad Donkey Basketball fundraiser. Fellow police officers and other City staff attended to cheer Officer Summitt on. He did well, making a few baskets and only falling off a couple of times.

In June, the police department hosted about 40 elementary summer school students. We discussed many safety learning tips, police operations, and what it is like to be a police officer. We also showed off our police vehicles and some of the equipment we use to stay safe.

Also in June, Lieutenant Salmon and School Resource Officers Greg Daniel and Dyllan Ratigan participated in the “Touch-a-Truck” event at Bright Beginnings Academy. The children are always excited to see the officers and have the opportunity to sit in a police car and activate the lights and sirens.

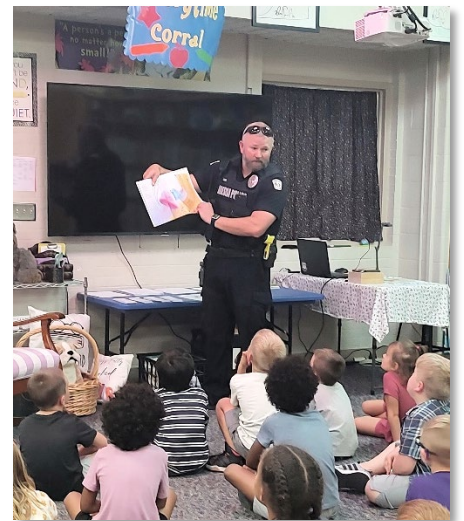


The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is held twice a year, and the Odessa Police Department participated in both events as a drop-off site for residents to dispose of their unwanted and unused prescription drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family 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. We collected over 60 pounds of medication to destroy in 2023.



Odessa's annual summer fair, Puddle Jumper Days, took place the first weekend of August. We had a command post booth setup and made sure we were out and about socializing with all of the fairgoers. Officer Zarda and Hawkeye also put on a K9 demonstration for everyone to enjoy.

In September, Captain Liese attended a Lafayette County Veterans Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting in Lexington. The mission of this coalition is to prevent veteran suicide. The coalition plans to accomplish this through collaboration and increased communication between VA hospitals, the Lafayette County Health Department, along with other key stakeholders in the community. One of the main goals is to provide suicide prevention education and mental health services to veterans and their families. This training supplements our roles in crisis intervention.



There was a party for the children at McQuerry Elementary who completed their summer reading program. They were treated to ice cream sundaes and a special book reading from Captain Liese.



In October, our school resource officers along with other police staff assisted and participated in the Odessa Special Olympics program at the Odessa High School.





ODESSA

POLICE DEPARTMENT

City of Odessa Police Department

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Odessa, MO 64076

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www.cityofodessamo.com

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Dial 911 in an Emergency

