



2024

# 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'm happy to share the 2024 Police Annual Report, which shows the hard work and dedication of our entire police department. This report encapsulates our collective efforts to serve and protect the Odessa community throughout the past year.

We understand the importance of fostering a community where everyone feels secure and protected from crime. To achieve this, we continue to prioritize strong communication and open dialogue between the police department and the Odessa community. We believe that residents play a vital role in safeguarding their neighborhoods, and we are committed to empowering them through active engagement and partnership.

In 2024, we maintained our focus on ensuring that every member of our department is equipped with the necessary tools, training, and resources to meet the City's high expectations. We conducted thorough assessments of our police activities, training programs, equipment maintenance, technological advancements, and preparedness for critical incidents. Our officers are trained to embody the values of attentiveness, reliability, responsiveness, competence, manners, and fairness, which are essential for building trust and strong relationships with the public. We also recognize the importance of regional collaboration and continue to strengthen our partnerships with surrounding jurisdictions to enhance crime prevention efforts.

We deeply value the residents of Odessa and the relationships we have cultivated with them. We are grateful for the cooperative efforts between our department and elected officials, which are crucial for effective community policing. We find immense satisfaction in witnessing a vibrant, active, and engaged community working hand-in-hand with the local police department. During 2024, the police officers and civilian employees of the Odessa Police Department continued their commitment to delivering "Service with Integrity." We have made significant strides in various community initiatives, including the further development of our school resource officer program, CIT K9 addition, and the ongoing progress in planning and designing our new police facility – the Police Facility Focus Group is a great example of community engagement. We remain dedicated to providing compassionate and effective support for individuals experiencing mental health crises, through our CIT and Veterans suicide prevention programs, and our partnerships with various organizations.

I am immensely proud to serve the Odessa community and to lead the dedicated officers and civilians of our organization. Their resilience, courage, and dedication are the cornerstones of our department's success. We recognize that community involvement is essential for effective policing. By fostering strong partnerships, we can enhance mutual understanding, identify emerging challenges, and develop meaningful solutions together.

This comprehensive report highlights the diverse activities and accomplishments of the Odessa Police Department in 2024. We encourage you to follow us on social media to stay informed about our ongoing initiatives and community achievements.

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

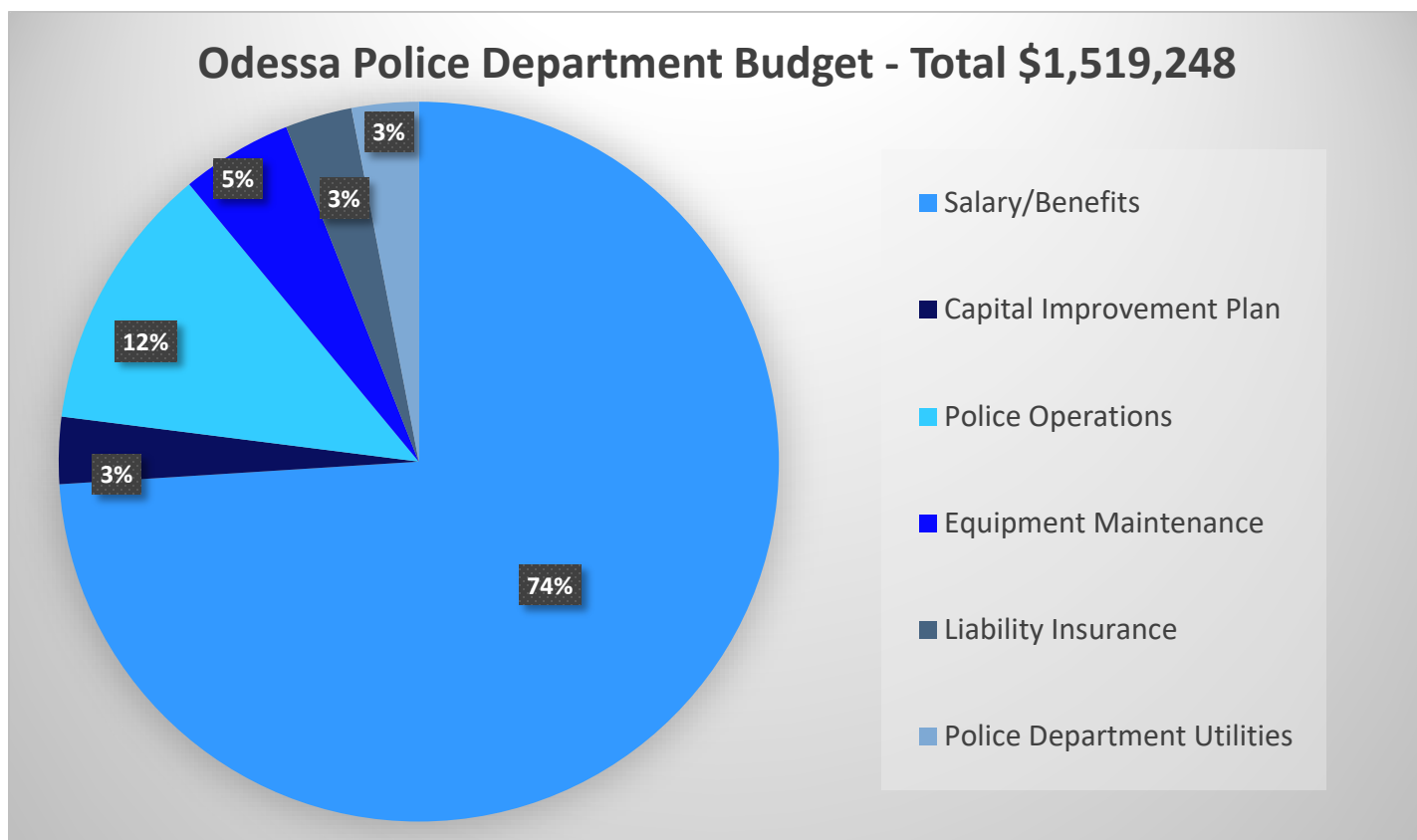
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# Police Department

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 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 Patrol K9, and Radar, our CIRT K9. The department maintains a fleet of vehicles including those for patrol and traffic enforcement, school resource officers, and animal control.

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.





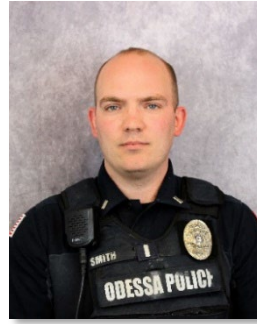
# 2024 Department Roster



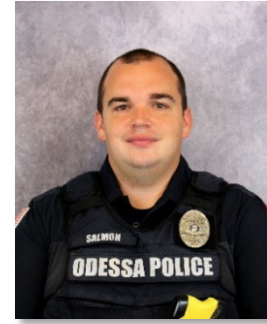
Josh Thompson  
Chief of Police



Leland "Bubba" Liese  
Captain



Cody Smith  
Lieutenant



Phillip Salmon  
Lieutenant



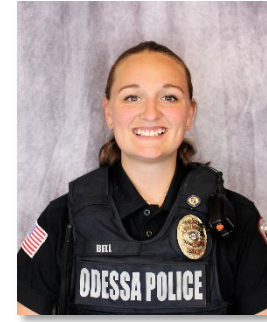
Greg Daniel  
School Resource Officer



Dyllan Ratigan  
School Resource Officer



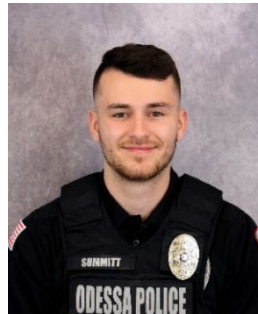
Andrew Lockhart  
School Resource Officer



Samantha Bell  
School Resource Officer



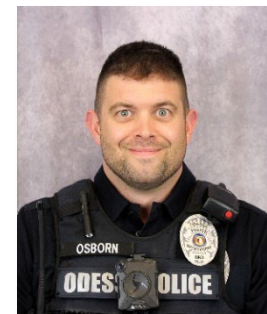
Derek Zarda  
Patrol Sergeant



Austin Summitt  
Patrol Officer



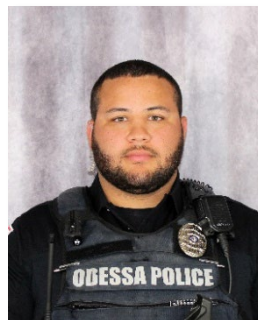
Daniel Melchioris  
Patrol Officer



Mat Osborn  
Patrol Officer



Ty Bell  
Patrol Officer



Kane Dobson  
Patrol Officer



Kim Wood  
Animal Control/Codes



Jenny Riedl  
Police Clerk

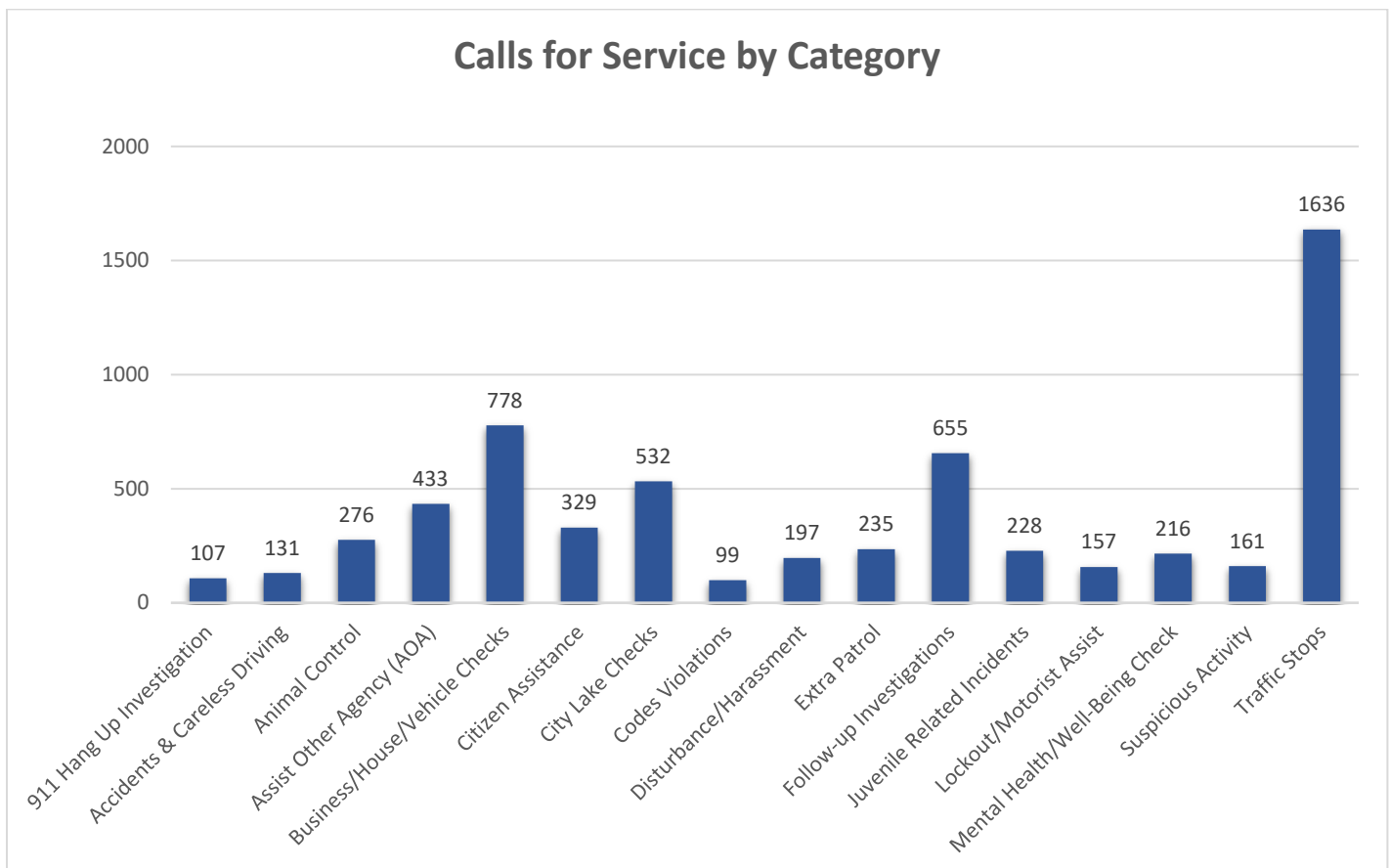
# Calls for Service

**8,633**  
**CALLS FOR**  
**SERVICE**

**3 MIN**  
**AVERAGE**  
**RESPONSE**  
**TIME**

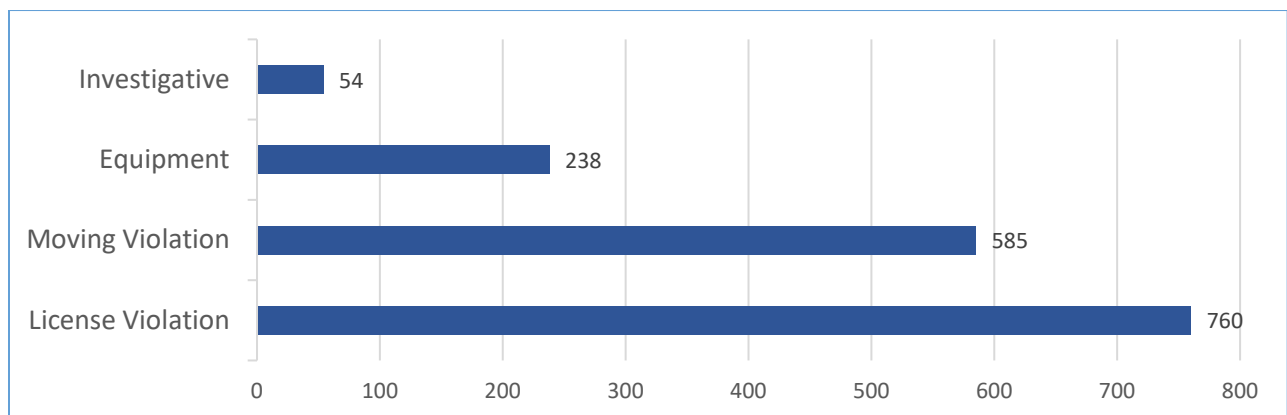
**41 MIN**  
**AVERAGE**  
**TIME ON**  
**SCENE**

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.



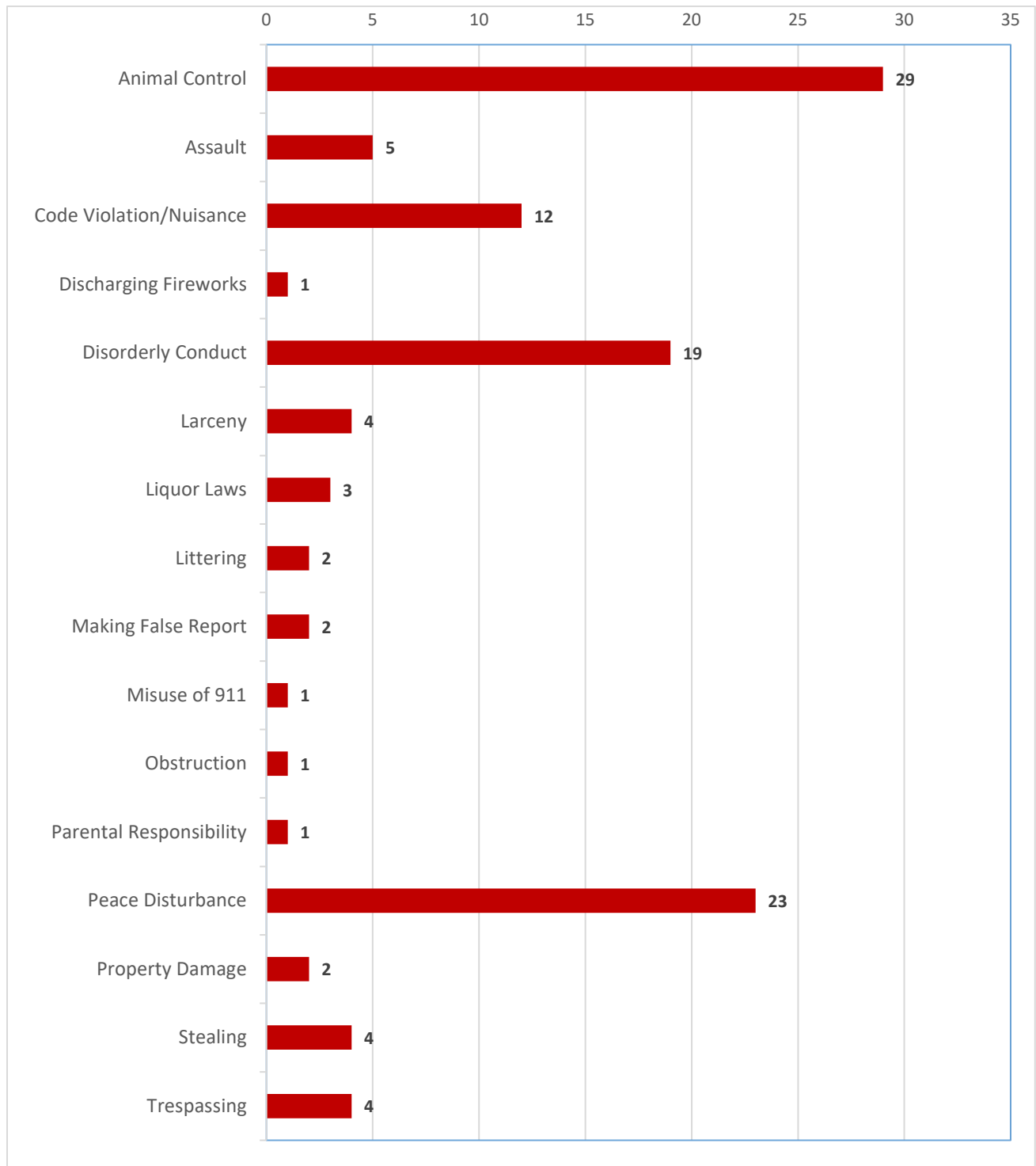
# Traffic Analysis

Our officers conducted 1,637 traffic stops in 2024, compared to 2,099 traffic stops in 2023, and 2,069 in 2022. 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 about 37% 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 2024 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 2024, 65 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.

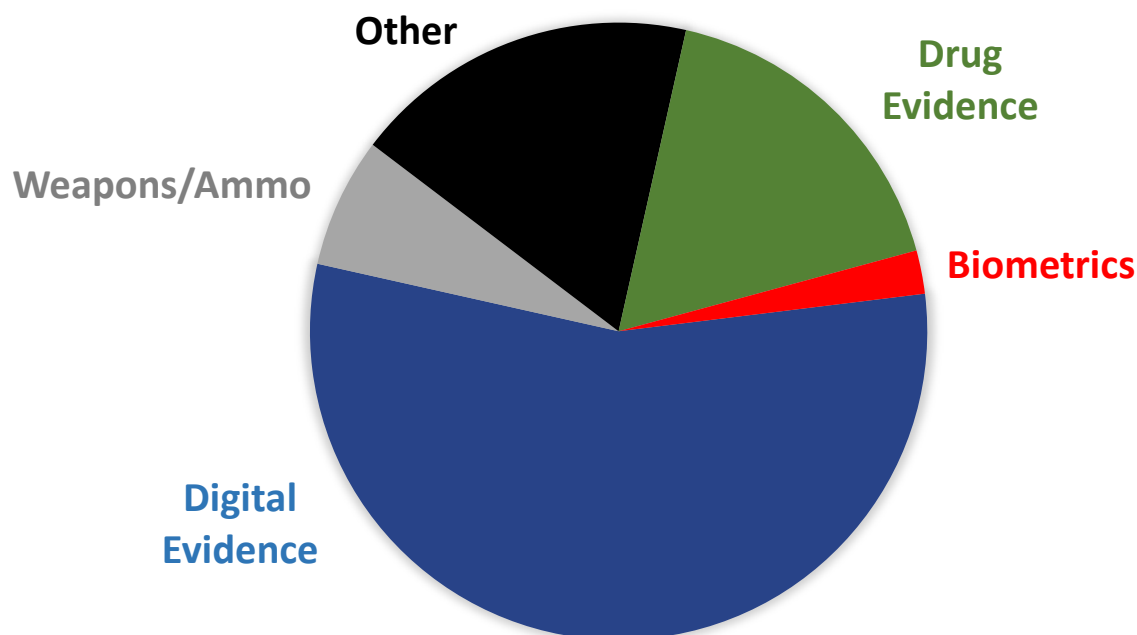
Detailed records of transactions involving items of evidence are maintained to preserve the "chain of custody" – the documentation of the continuous custody of items submitted as evidence. All items entered into our system are given a barcode for tracking and to maintain detailed records needed to present 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.

**18 PIECES**  
OF EVIDENCE SENT  
TO MSHP CRIME LAB

**4,000+**  
TOTAL PIECES OF EVIDENCE  
AND PROPERTY SECURED

**OVER 90**  
POUNDS OF PRESCRIPTION  
DRUGS COLLECTED &  
SAFELY DISPOSED

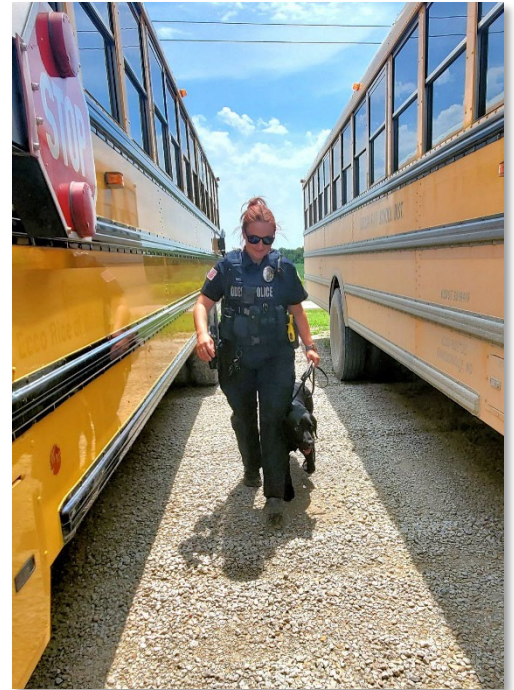
## 205 PIECES OF EVIDENCE RECEIVED IN 2024



# 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 2024 included:

- Taser recertification
- School Resource Officer Training
- Firearms Training/Qualifications
- Missouri Police Canine Association Workshop
- MILO (firearms simulator) system training
- Terrorism Officer Training
- Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center Training
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training
- First Line Supervisor Course
- Lafayette County SIMs Mapping Workshop
- Midwest Public Risk Leadership Seminar
- Critical Incident Response K9 Training

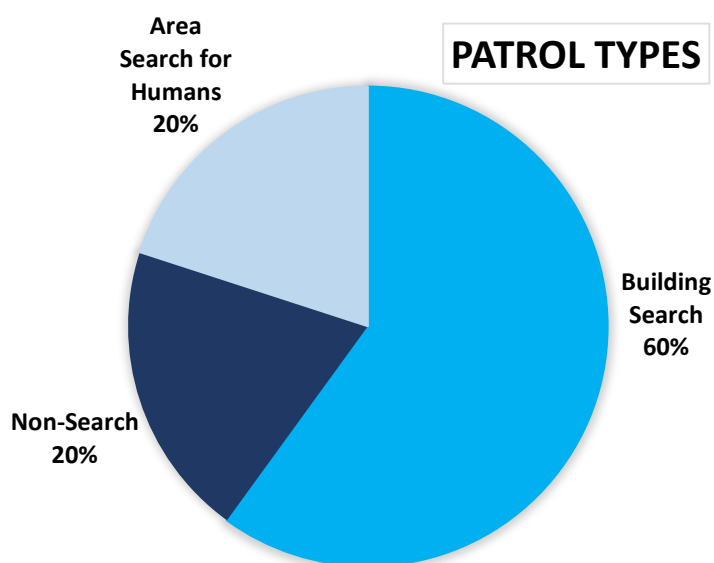


# K9 Unit

The Odessa Police Department K9 Unit was established in the summer of 2019 thanks to the generous donations of our community. Below are some of the achievements made by this dynamic duo in 2024.



Drugs found during K9 alert searches in 2024 resulted in the confiscation of 5 grams of drugs including methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin and cocaine along with 14 items of paraphernalia.





# 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 were asked to create a poster or digital presentation about the D.A.R.E. program and what they learned. The winners for 2024 are (from left to right) Emma Lattie, Regan Oliphant, Alana Clark,

Lilah Walker, Lennix Crawford, Zoey Salyer, and Leah James, with Kinley McFarland as the top winner (not pictured). The winners received a 10-day pool pass for the Odessa Aquatic Center with the top winner receiving a season pass. In addition, the 2024 D.A.R.E. shirts were designed by two students – Karlina Klamm and Addie Benson – who each received Sonic gift cards. Congratulations to all of the D.A.R.E. graduates!

# Critical Incident Stress Management K9 Program

A new program was implemented by the Odessa Police Department in 2024. A Critical Incident Stress Management Therapy K9 joined our ranks. Radar and his handler, Sam Bell, have been trained to work in the complex physical environments of crisis to assist people experiencing intense emotions and stress in the aftermath. Radar is pictured here with Officer Bell and Janeen Baggett, the founder of K9's for Freedom & Independence. This non-profit organization takes dogs from shelters, rescues, or donations, and trains them to be CIRT K9s for law enforcement and first responder agencies.

Radar is a valuable addition to our department that was 100% funded by grants and donations.

He will provide support for students, veterans, victims, first responders, and the entire community of Odessa. We are committed to providing compassionate crisis intervention and effective stress management services to empower individuals facing difficult circumstances. And Radar will play a significant role in our efforts.



**Trauma Calls** – Emotionally distraught juveniles, persons, disturbances, missing persons, sexual assault, check the well beings/suicidal subjects, deaths.

**Public Safety Critical Incident** – Line of duty death of a police officer, firefighter, EMS personnel, dispatch services.

**Military Veterans and Families** – Persons suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual assault.

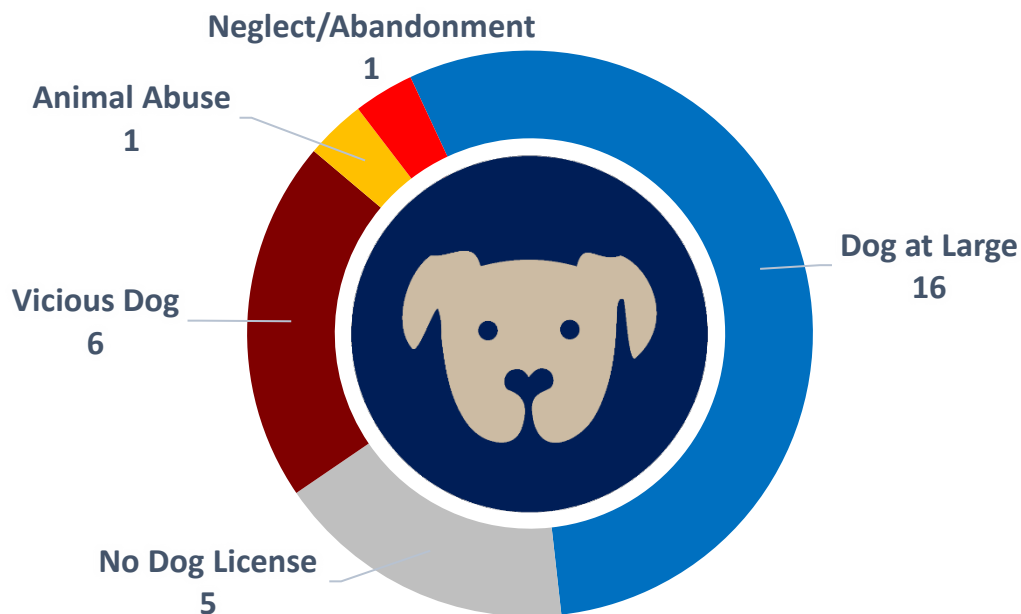
**Public Relations Events** – School events, community events, court events, education events about Law Enforcement services.



# 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 2024, there were 276 animal control calls for service and 99 calls regarding nuisances/codes. From all of the non-traffic related citations issued, the highest category was animal control with 29 tickets. Nuisance/codes violations resulted in 12 tickets. The breakdown of the animal control citations are:



The Odessa Police Department renewed our annual Animal Care Facility license with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. This license is necessary to operate our pound.

In 2024, we had an intake of 62 dogs compared to 67 in 2023 and 61 in 2022. Of those, the majority (44) were returned to their owners, 14 were adopted, 2 were transferred to other shelters, and two were euthanized due to aggression.



# Accomplishments/Recognitions



Officer Austin Summitt as the recipient of the 2024 Odessa Police Department's Bob Kinder Police Employee of the Year Award. 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 Summitt is a dedicated professional, known for his positive attitude and commitment to the community. His outreach efforts, including organizing a volunteer dodgeball event to strengthen relationships

between the public, children, and law enforcement, have had a meaningful impact. His compassion and desire to help others shine through in all that he does. Here are just a few comments received from Officer Summitt's co-workers, "Austin has built trust within the community...He is proactive and consistently strives to improve...He uses technology and effective investigative techniques to solve crimes...Austin motivates his colleagues...His performance is outstanding, and he is a valuable asset to Odessa." Thank you Officer Summitt for your service, and congratulations on your achievement!

Odessa was ranked the 5th Safest City in Missouri for 2024! 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 75% of our cases, well above the State average of 27%.



In December, School Resource Officer Greg Daniel earned his local government employee retirement and elected to retire from law enforcement. Congratulations to Officer Daniel on 16 dedicated years of public service to the citizens of Lafayette County and Odessa. He started his law enforcement career with the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office as a road deputy, then transferred to the Odessa division in 2016, serving eight years as a school Resource Officer in Odessa.



# 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 2024, we hosted our fourth 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Shop with a Cop event. We had a great time spending time with 25 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!





# 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 2024.

In March, SRO Ratigan assisted by Sgt Zarda presented information to students at the Odessa Upper Elementary School regarding careers in Law Enforcement. Sgt Zarda brought K9 Haykeye to the school for show-and-tell and explained what he and Hawkeye do to protect the community.



Also in March, Officer Sam Bell “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 on Officer Bell.



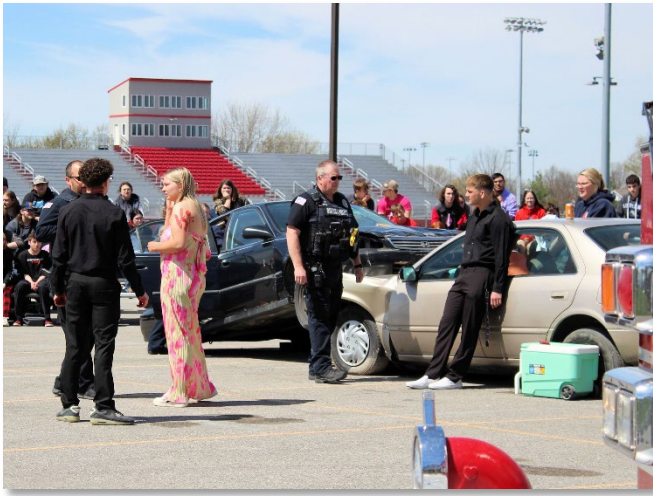
SRO Daniel, Cpt Liese, and the Chief participated in the Odessa Chamber of Commerce Odessa High School Student Development Day. They met with a number of Odessa seniors to discuss emergency preparedness, situation awareness, self-defense, rights as a citizen, traffic stops and other police topics.

The department hosted three “Coffee with the Chief” events in 2024 to encourage community involvement and engage with Odessa citizens. This is a great environment to promote community trust and build partnerships with residents outside of the normal day-to-day call for service interactions.





In April, SRO Daniel and the Odessa Police Department coordinated a docudrama mock vehicle crash at the Odessa High School campus. The docudrama is designed to provide a serious scenario involving a fatality crash for students to experience and learn. Our department was assisted by the Odessa R-VII School District, Odessa Fire and Rescue Protection District, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Lafayette County Sheriff's Office and Walker Tire and Tow.



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 90 pounds of medication to destroy in 2024.



In June, Lieutenant Salmon, SRO Bell, and ACO Wood brought their vehicles to the Bright Beginnings Academy for their annual "Touch-a-Truck" day. 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.

In August, 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 Cpt Liese.





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, Cpt Liese attended the Lafayette County Veterans Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting in Lexington. The coalition's mission is to raise awareness, promote education opportunities and partner with local community groups to improve the lives of all veterans and their families. Cpt Liese is an active member within the group and helped to place Veteran Suicide 988 signs around Odessa. The Missouri 988 program is available 24/7 offering free and confidential support whenever needed.

The Odessa Police Department has teamed up with WeTip to enhance community safety through anonymous crime tip reporting. This partnership empowers residents to report suspicious activities or criminal behavior without fear of identification. By providing a confidential channel for tips, WeTip encourages more community members to engage in crime prevention efforts, ultimately fostering a safer environment for everyone in Odessa. This partnership highlights the department's commitment to transparency and community involvement in tackling crime effectively.



Powered By:  CatapultEMS

SUBMIT AN ANONYMOUS TIP



**TEXT**



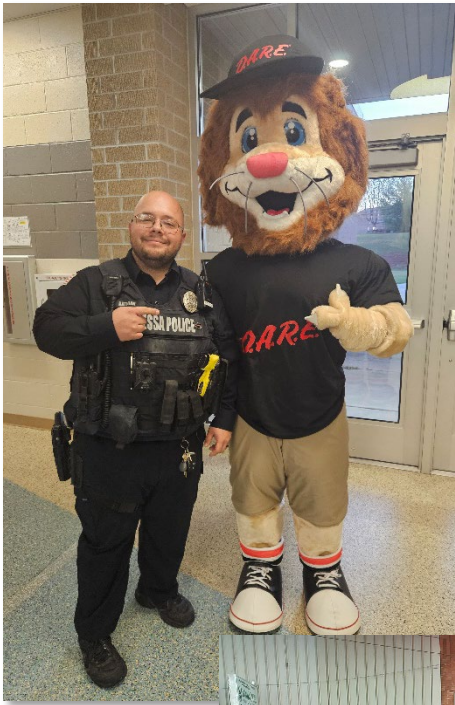
**CALL**



**SCAN**

844-816-0026









# ODESSA

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### City of Odessa Police Department

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[www.cityofodessamo.com](http://www.cityofodessamo.com)

[www.facebook.com/odessamopolice](https://www.facebook.com/odessamopolice)

***Dial 911 in an Emergency***

