



2025

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 proud to share the 2025 Police Annual Report, a comprehensive look at a year defined by growth, modernization, and a commitment to the community we serve. This past year, the Odessa Police Department has focused on not only responding to the needs of today but building the infrastructure for a safer tomorrow.

Our greatest asset remains our personnel, and in 2025 we were fortunate to welcome several new staff members to our team. These individuals bring a wonderful commitment to public service and have quickly embraced our core values of "Service with Integrity." Their energy and dedication are essential as we continue to meet the high expectations of the City of Odessa and ensure that every member of our department is equipped with the necessary training and resources to protect our residents.

This year, we have also taken a more proactive approach to our property maintenance code enforcement efforts. Recognizing that a well-maintained community is a safer community, our team has worked to build collaborative relationships with property owners, developers, and contractors. By prioritizing open communication and partnership over mere enforcement, we are working together to enhance the beauty and safety of our neighborhoods while fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

To better equip our officers, we have aggressively pursued and received multiple grants that have significantly bolstered our police operations. These funds have allowed us to launch impactful new initiatives, most notably our new drone program. This technology provides us with an invaluable tool for search and rescue operations, tactical assessments, and incident management, ensuring our officers have the best possible resources to protect the public. These advancements complement our ongoing progress on the new police facility, which continues to move forward with the input of our Community Focus Group.

Beyond these new milestones, we remain dedicated to our specialized support programs, including the further development of our school resource officer program, our CIT K9, and our veteran suicide prevention initiatives. We continue to prioritize regional partnerships and the strong relationships we have cultivated with our elected officials and the residents of Odessa. The dedication of our officers and civilian employees are the cornerstones of our success. We remain grateful for a community that works hand-in-hand with us to identify challenges and develop meaningful solutions.

I invite you to review the details of our progress in the following pages and stay connected with us throughout the year on social media to remain informed about our ongoing initiatives and achievements.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Thompson".

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

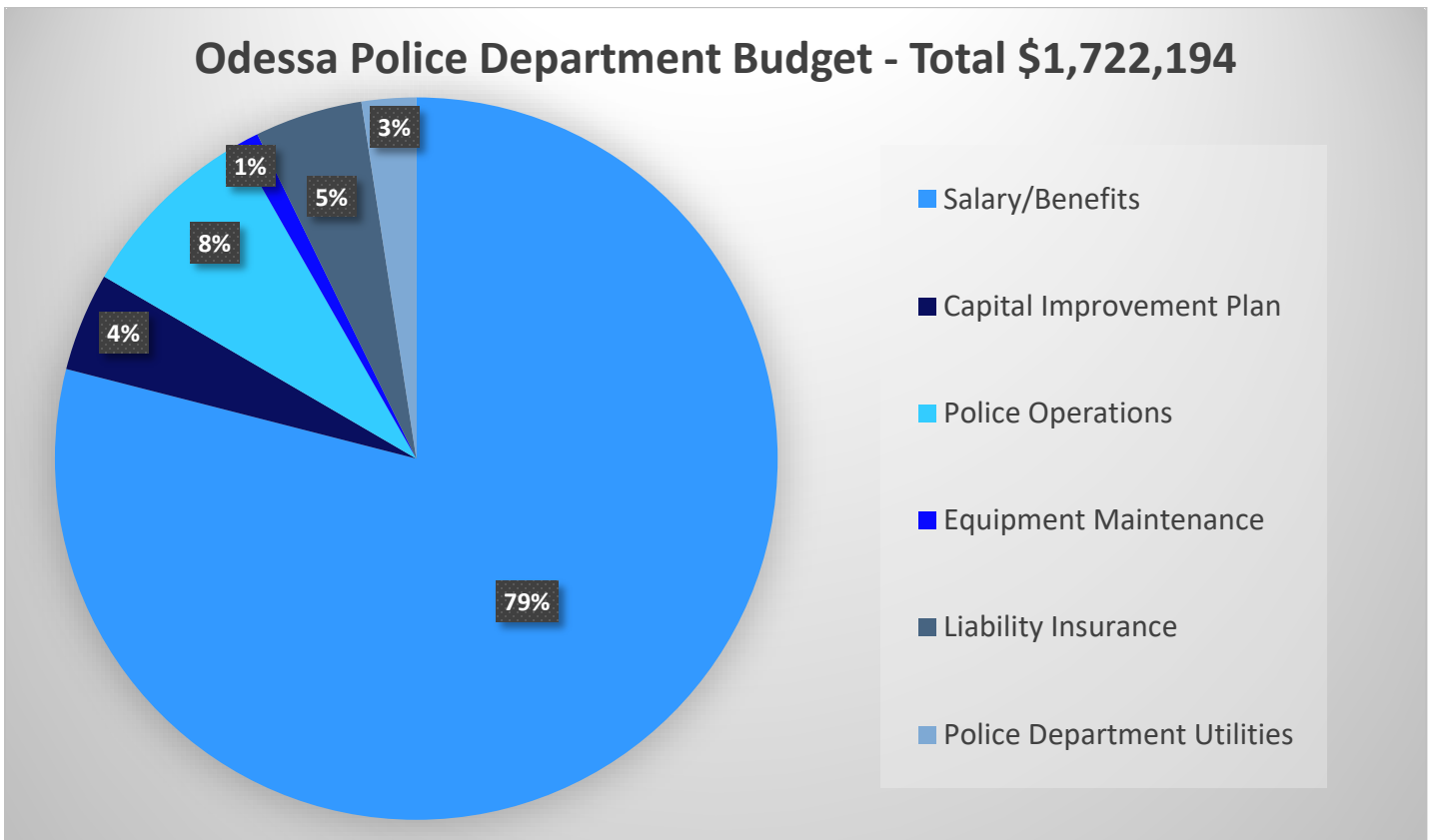
to be steadfast in the face of challenges

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, eight 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 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 our 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.



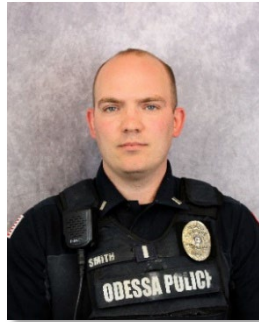
2025 Department Roster



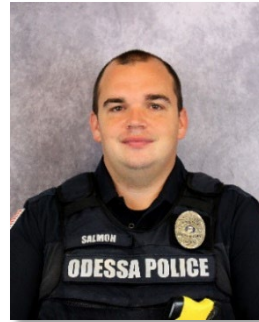
Josh Thompson
Chief of Police



Leland "Bubba" Liese
Captain



Cody Smith
Lieutenant



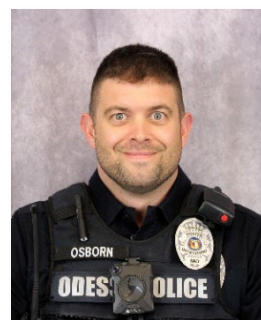
Phillip Salmon
Lieutenant



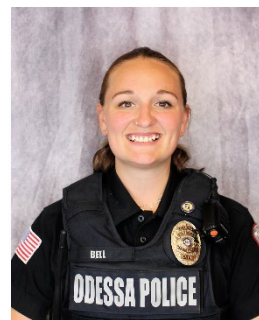
Derek Zarda
Patrol Sergeant



Andrew Lockhart
School Resource Officer



Mat Osborn
School Resource Officer



Samantha Bell
School Resource Officer



Ben Brown
School Resource Officer



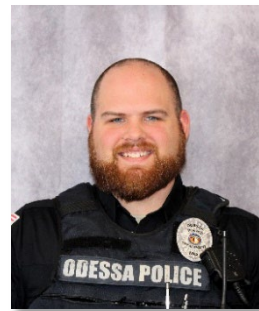
Austin Summitt
Patrol Officer



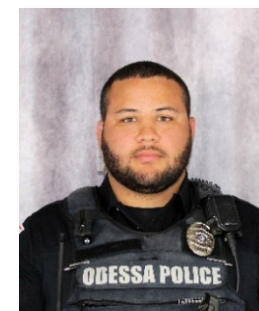
Alexis Parrott
Patrol Officer



Daniel Melchioris
Patrol Officer



Ty Bell
Patrol Officer



Kane Dobson
Patrol Officer



Galene Seitz
Animal Control/Codes



Hawkeye
Patrol K9



Radar
CIRT K9



Jenny Riedl
Police Clerk



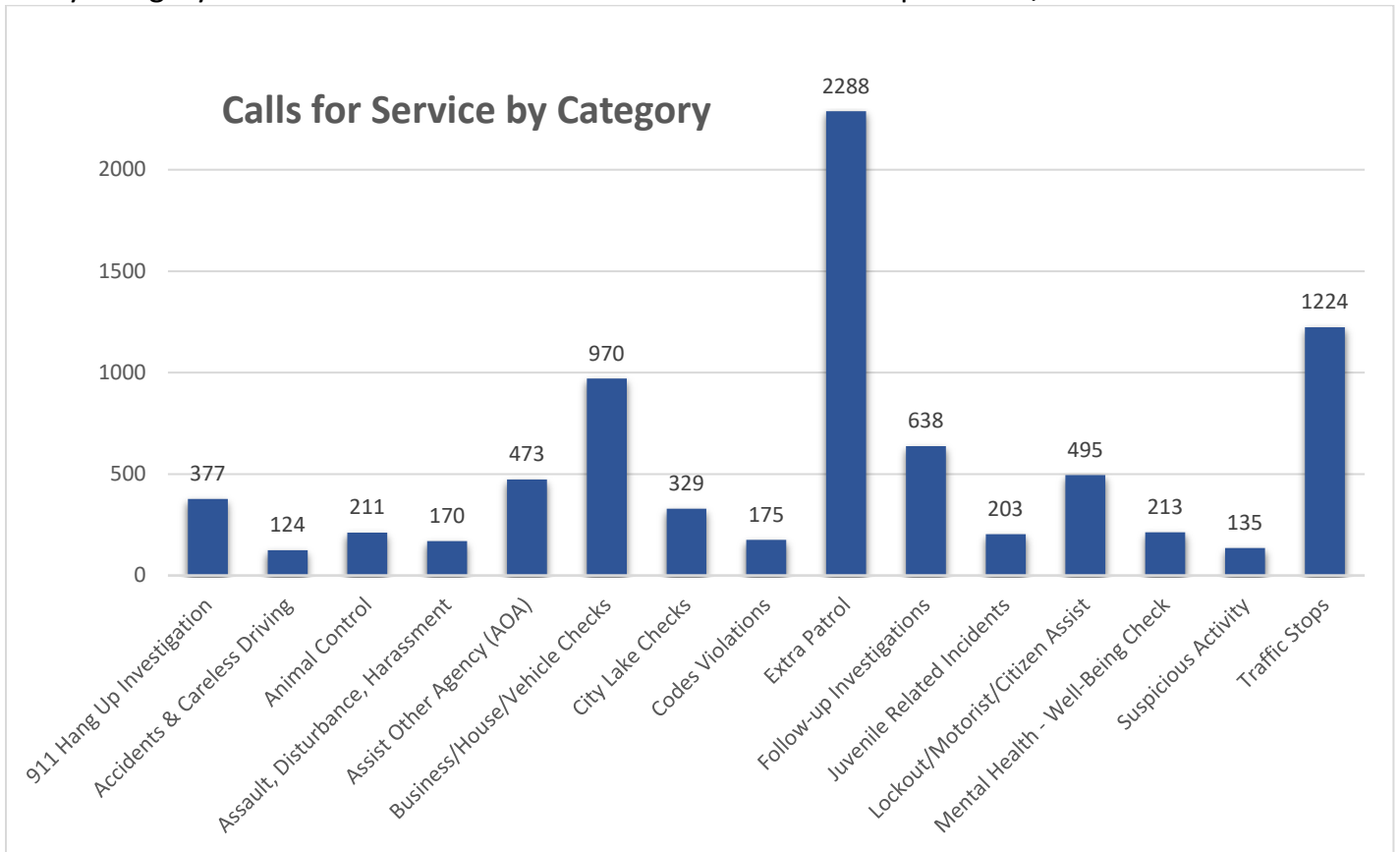
Calls for Service

10,140
CALLS FOR SERVICE

3 MIN
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

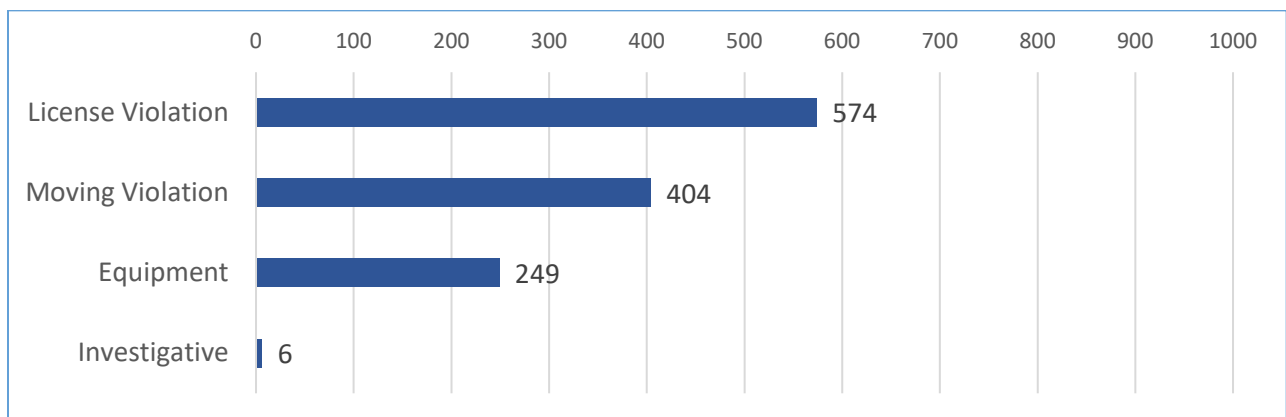
51 MIN
AVERAGE TIME ON SCENE

In 2025, the Odessa Police Department received 10,140 calls for service, compared to 8,633 calls for service in 2024. This increase can be partially attributed to a change in how we log extra patrol assignments to more accurately reflect duties being accomplished. The average response time was 3 minutes with an average of 51 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.



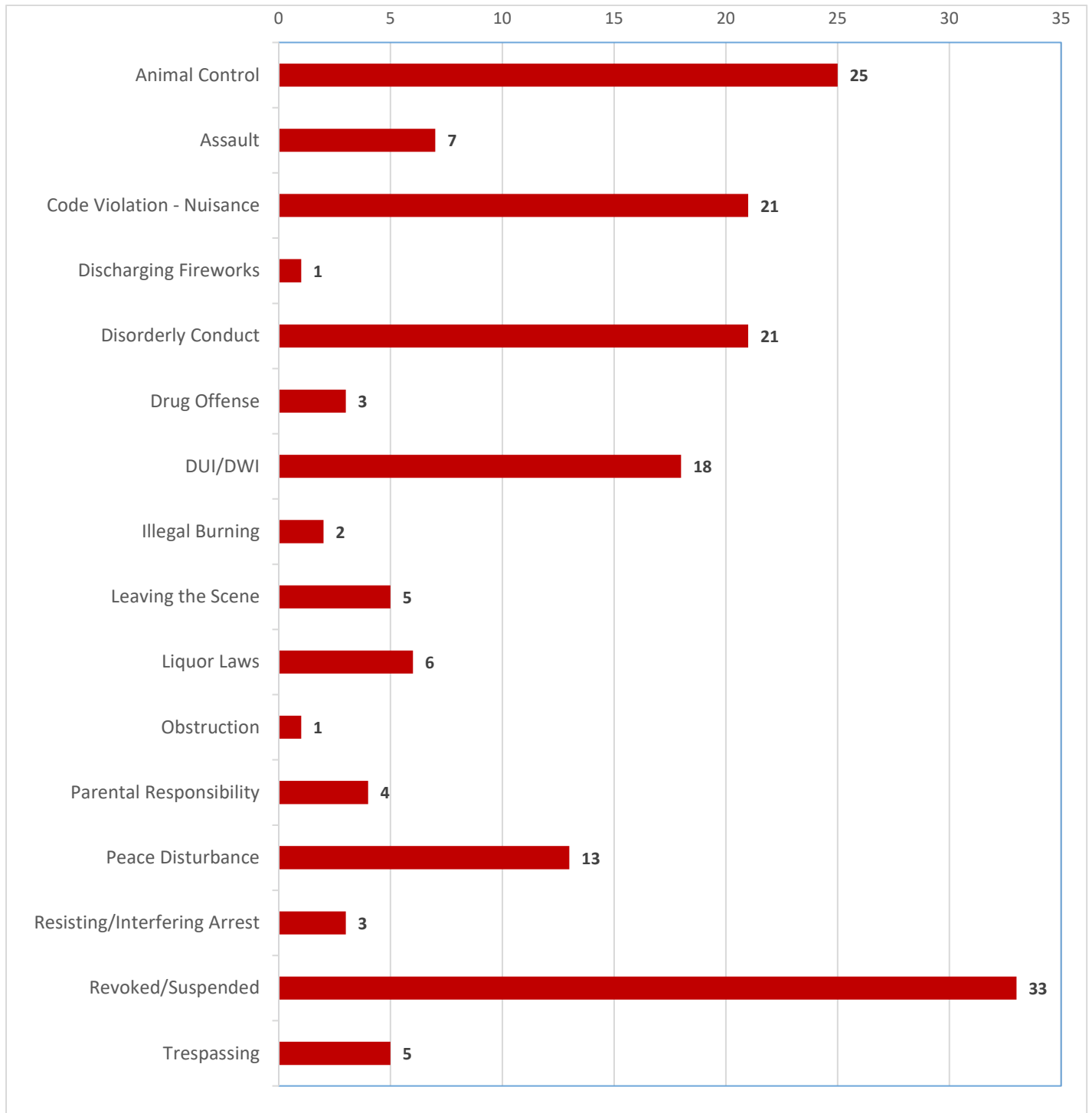
Traffic Analysis

Our officers conducted 1,232 traffic stops in 2025, compared to 1,637 traffic stops in 2024, and 2,099 traffic stops in 2023. 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 32% 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.



Citations Issued — Not Minor Traffic

The majority of citations issued during the year are for minor traffic violations (previous page). The chart below shows some other areas in which citations were issued in 2025. Please note that some incidents investigated by the Odessa Police Department are not issued city tickets but rather sent to the State Prosecutor's Office. In 2025, 81 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.

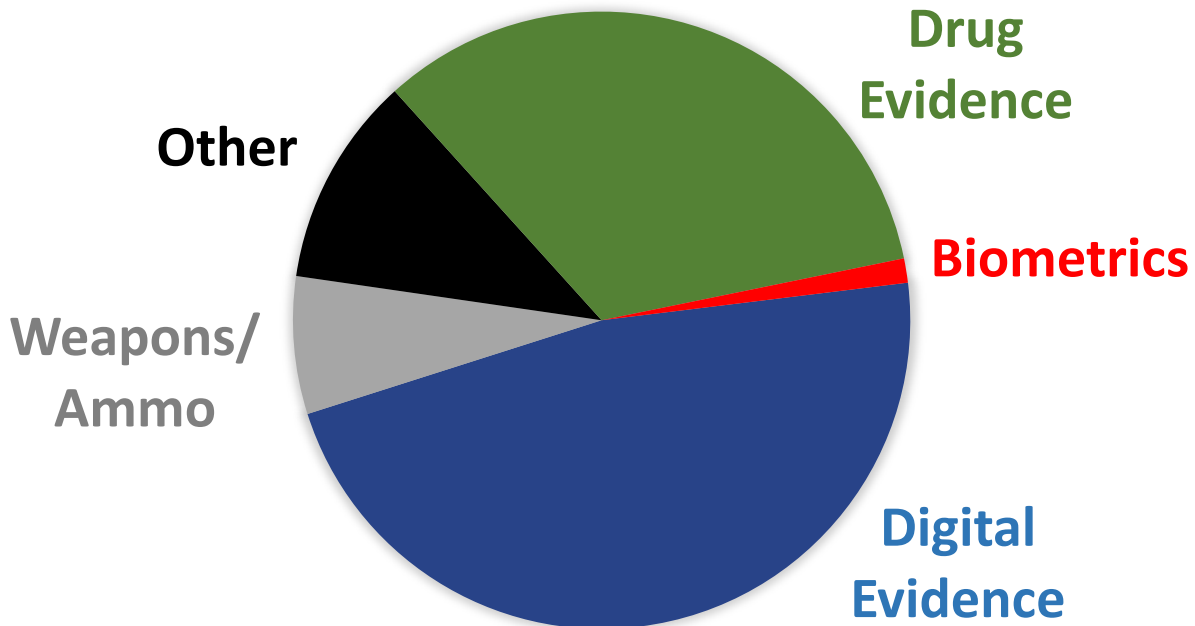
Detailed records of transactions involving items of evidence are maintained to preserve the "chain of custody" – the documentation of the continuous custody of items submitted as evidence. All items entered into our system are given a barcode for tracking and to maintain detailed records needed to present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

15 PIECES
OF EVIDENCE SENT
TO MSHP CRIME LAB

4,000+
TOTAL PIECES OF EVIDENCE
AND PROPERTY SECURED

OVER 110
POUNDS
OF PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS COLLECTED &
SAFELY DISPOSED

236 PIECES OF EVIDENCE RECEIVED IN 2025



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 2025 included:

- **Taser recertification**
- **School Resource Officer Training**
- **Firearms Training/Qualifications**
- **DARE Instructor Course**
- **PepperBall® Weapon Training**
- **Public Information Officer Training**
- **Midwest Public Risk Annual Conference**
- **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training**
- **MoCARS (Vehicle Crash Investigation) Training**
- **Missouri Investigators Association Conference**
- **Crisis Leadership and Decision-Making Seminar**
- **Missouri State Highway Patrol MIBRS/NCIC Training**
- **Assisting Individuals in Crisis & Group Crisis Certification**
- **Missouri First Responders Health and Wellness Conference**
- **American Association of Codes Enforcement Conference**
- **Missouri Police Canine Association Workshop**



Department Grants & Donations

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.

The Odessa Police Department was awarded the Missouri Blue Shield Grant. This is a non-competitive grant, which means each Missouri Blue Shield recipient receives an award of **\$50,000** for allowable supplies, equipment, and/or training needed in for the department. The City elected to replace a police vehicle with the grant award, lowering the capital improvement request for the upcoming budget year.

In April of 2025, we received an amazing donation from Remington, a young girl living here in Odessa. At just 11 years old, Remington took it upon herself to ask for donations to support our city dog pound. With around 40 donors, and a contribution from her own birthday money, she was able to purchase much-needed items including dog treats, beds, blankets, and toys. Thank you, Remington, for having such a kind heart and being an inspiration to us all.



In May of 2025, we received a grant from the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railroad in the amount of **\$2,500**. CPKC is committed to working with local law enforcement agencies to provide extra rail safety, education, and/or enforcement to help keep the community safe. Our department plans to use these funds to assist with the formation of a first responder drone program, enhancing safety and operational effectiveness with real-time aerial intelligence.

In June of 2025, we received a grant from Casey's General Store in the amount of **\$1,000**. Casey's has been a wonderful supporter of local communities through giving that makes an impact on fundamental needs. Our department plans to use these funds in addition to the CPKC grant to assist with the department's drone program.

Also in June of 2025, we received a grant from Walmart Charitable Foundation in the amount of **\$2,500**. Walmart is a wonderful supporter of law enforcement, providing funding for special needs and projects. These funds will also be used to help fund our first responder drone program.

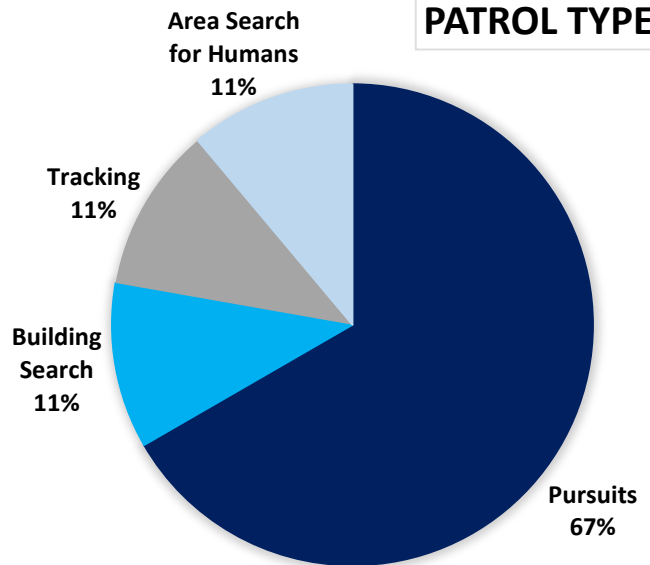
K9 Unit

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 many achievements made by this dynamic duo.



Drugs found during K9 alert searches in 2025 resulted in the confiscation of drug paraphernalia and 74 grams of drugs including methamphetamine, Xanax, MDMA, and cocaine.

PATROL TYPES



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 2025, the Odessa Police Department had four School Resource Officers (SROs) in the district, with the assistance of a grant from the Lafayette County Children’s Services Fund.

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

- SRO Ben Brown – Upper Elementary*
- SRO Sam Bell & CIRT K9 Radar – Middle School*
- SRO Andrew Lockhart – High School*
- SRO Mat Osborn – McQuerry Elementary*



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 create a poster or digital presentation about the D.A.R.E. program and what they learned. The winners in 2025 were Kim Dang, Kierstynn Halsey, Dakota Jackson, Kaleigha Joe, Derian Lopez-Quezada, Skylar Marshall, and Finnlee Seals, with Hazel Tilton 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 2025 D.A.R.E. shirts were designed by two students – Layla Bainbridge and Ryun Kuhlmann – who each received Sonic gift cards. Congratulations to all of the D.A.R.E. graduates.

Critical Incident Stress Management K9 Program



In 2024, the Odessa Police Department implemented a Critical Incident Stress Management Therapy K9. Radar and his handler, SRO 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 a valuable addition to our department that was 100% funded by grants and donations. He provides 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 plays a significant role in our efforts.

Trauma Calls – Emotional distraught juveniles, persons, disturbances, missing persons, sexual assault, ches, the well beings/suicidal subjects, deaths.

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

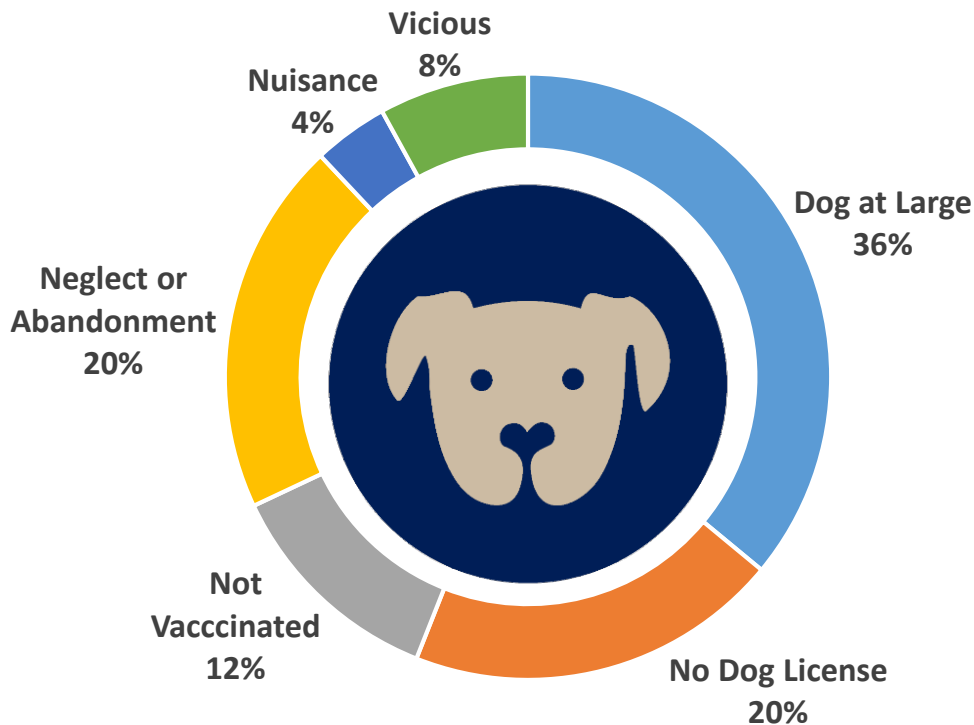
Military Veterans and Families – Persons suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual assault.

Public Relations Events – School events, community events, court events, educational evants about Law Enforcement services.



Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer is responsible for serving the community by protecting the health and safety of our residents and animals while promoting responsible pet ownership. In 2025, there were 211 animal control calls for service. From all of the non minor traffic related citations issued, the second highest category was animal control with 25 tickets. The breakdown of the 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 2025, we had an intake of 52 dogs compared to 62 in 2024 and 67 in 2023. Of those, the majority (30) were returned to their owners, 15 were adopted, 4 were transferred to other rescues, and 3 were euthanized due to behavioral/health issues.

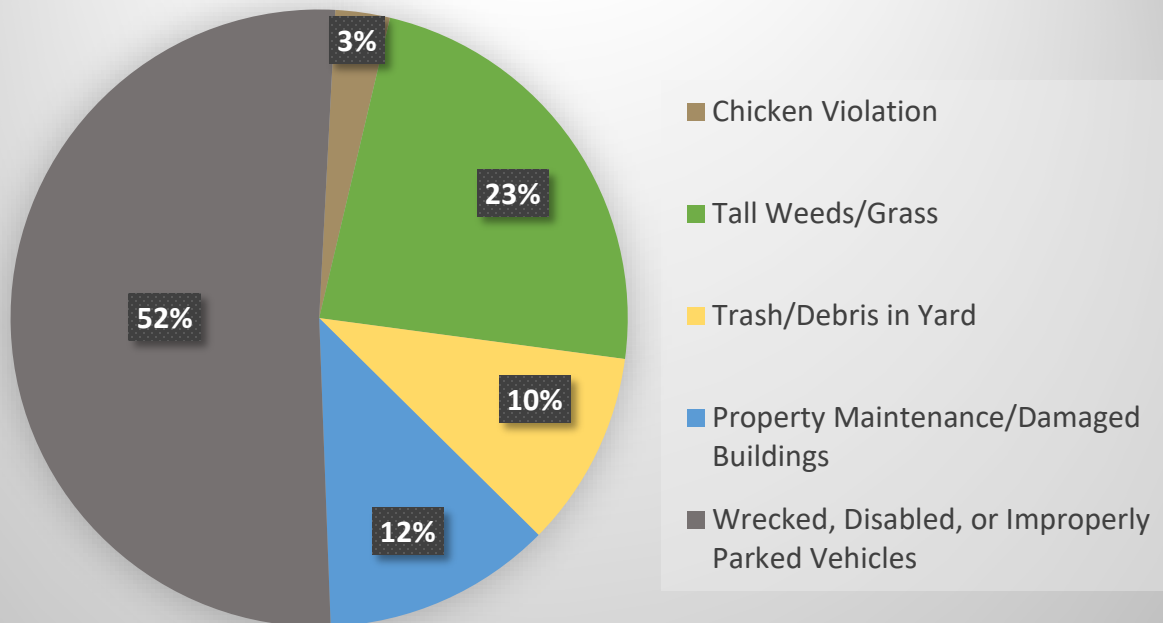


Codes Enforcement

The primary objective of Codes Enforcement is to educate and assist residents in complying with city ordinances in order to promote a clean, safe, and attractive community for all who live in Odessa as well as visitors. We work with citizens and property owners to address complaints and make every reasonable effort to obtain voluntary compliance. In 2025, Codes Enforcement received 175 calls for service and issued 21 citations. The breakdown of those calls are as follows:



Codes Enforcement/Nuisance Calls for Service



Accomplishments/Recognitions



School Resource Officer Andrew Lockhart was recognized as the 2025 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.

This year, Officer Lockhart demonstrated incredible personal growth by taking on the role of DARE Instructor at the Upper Elementary School. His transition to the High School SRO position has been seamless, proving his ability to mentor and protect students of all ages. He remains an open-minded confidant to his peers and a professional representative of this

badge in every interaction. A comment received from one of his co-workers was, "Andrew has truly stepped out of his comfort zone this year, moving from the 'tiny tots' to the high school students and absolutely rocking it. He has become the unspoken team leader for the SROs and remains a constant source of positivity. Whether he is teaching DARE or just walking the halls, his smile is infectious – everywhere Andrew goes, you can find people laughing. He puts in the hard work for his students and teachers, ensuring our youth stay on the right path." Thank you Officer Lockhart for your service, and congratulations on your achievement!

Lt. Phillip Salmon was named the 2025 Missouri Investigators Association Investigator of the Year. This award recognizes his exceptional dedication to resolving crimes, providing justice, and fostering regional law enforcement cooperation. Lt. Salmon's pivotal role in solving a complex series of business burglaries across multiple counties in August 2021 was a key factor in his selection. His sharp investigative skills, collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, and successful deployment of a GPS tracking device led to suspect apprehension and recovery of stolen property. We sincerely appreciate Lt. Salmon's commitment to the Odessa community and our department.





The City of Odessa received the Missouri Blue Shield designation from the Missouri Department of Public Safety. This distinction recognizes Missouri communities that demonstrate a steadfast commitment to enhancing public safety and supporting law enforcement. Achieving the Missouri Blue Shield designation is an honor for Odessa, and a testament to the dedication and hard work of the Odessa Police Department in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

In addition, as a Missouri Blue Shield recipient, the City of Odessa received an award of \$50,000 for allowable supplies, equipment and/or training needed for the department. The City elected to replace a police vehicle with the grant award, lowering the capital improvement request for the upcoming budget year.

School Resource Officer Andrew Lockhart graduated from DARE Instructor school in September 2025. The DARE program was founded in 1983 by the Los Angeles Police Department. Today there are more than 15,000 DARE officers teaching the program around the United States. The DARE training course will allow Officer Lockhart to teach both elementary and middle school evidence-based curriculum to students. Officer Lockhart was also awarded a distinguished instructor award while attending this course.

School Resource Officer Samantha Bell and K-9 Radar attended a five-day CIRT development seminar and certification course in which they were both certified nationally through AERI CIRT K-9. Certification is important in public safety to ensure that both the handler and K-9 can operate in high-stress, sensitive environments.

The Odessa Police Department successfully completed a Missouri Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Support Office audit. This audit involved the Department of Defense property grant program that assists local agency's law enforcement goals preferencing counter-drug and counter terrorism activities.

Odessa was ranked the 5th Safest City in Missouri! 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.



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 October of 2025, we hosted our fifth National Night Out! This is a national event that takes place every year 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 enjoy 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 Sheriff's Office, and Odessa City Utilities were in attendance. Everyone was able to meet their local first responders and enjoy an evening full of family fun with food vendors, free music, and bounce houses.



Shop with a Cop

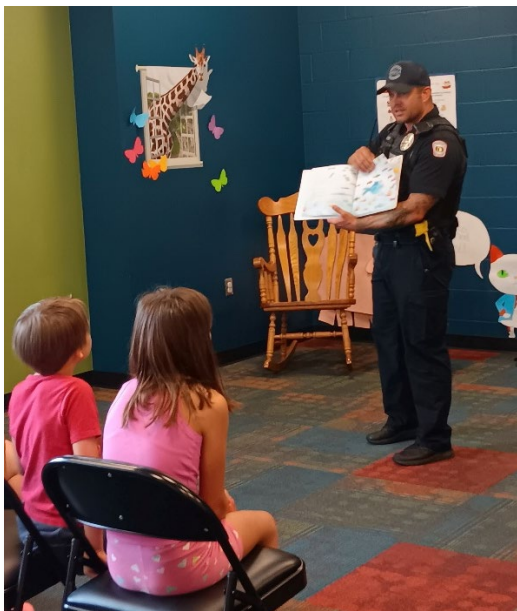
The Odessa Police Department held its 4th Annual Shop with a Cop event. We had a great time spending time with 20 Odessa children and helping make their Christmas wishes come true. Everyone headed out that morning to the Oak Grove Walmart where each child was able to spend around \$300 on gifts for themselves 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 2025.

In March, School Resource 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 Officer Bell on. She did well, making a few baskets and staying on the donkey.



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 110 pounds of medication to destroy in 2025.

In June and July, we launched a summer "Storytime" event, partnering with the Odessa branch of the Trails Regional Library, in which an Odessa Police Officer reads one of their favorite children's books to the kids.

In June, the police department hosted summer school students from McQuerry Elementary. 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.





Odessa's annual summer fair, Puddle Jumper Days, took place the first weekend of August. The SROs organized a dunk tank in order to encourage positive relationships with the community and help raise money for back to school supplies and the Shop with a Cop program. We also had a command post booth setup and made sure we were out and about socializing with all of the fairgoers. In addition, Officer Zarda and Hawkeye put on a K9 demonstration for everyone to enjoy.

We partner with the Lafayette County Veterans Suicide Prevention Coalition with the goal of raising awareness, promoting educational opportunities, and striving to improve the lives of all veterans and their families. Captain Liese plays a vital role in assisting the coalition, and has recently helped the group acquire their 501c3 status, obtain donations for K-9 Radar, and place suicide prevention signs at Odessa public parks and the reservoir.

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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Dial 911 in an Emergency

