

MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2024



A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

PROTECTING AND SERVING SINCE 1851

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Office of the Chief of Police

Anthony R. Kies

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO: Muscatine Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Matt Mardesen, City Administrator

DATE: January 26, 2025

FROM: Anthony Kies, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Police Department Operational Report, 2024

The Muscatine Police Department submits an annual Operational Report to the Mayor and City Council as part of the requirements of our national accreditation. The purpose of this report is to provide an update of police department activities and to identify the major issues facing the department at this time. In addition, this information will hopefully provide some insight into the future trends or emerging issues which may impact the delivery of police services in some way.



Office of the Chief of Police

Anthony R. Kies

What a great year 2024 has been. This year has flown by and we have been able to move forward with many opportunities that have been in the works for the last couple years. Our number one topic of importance is our community that we serve. We also know that by focusing on mental health and training we are able to capitalize on our officers who will in turn continue to serve the public while being 100% healthy and up to date on training.

This year our department was able to really put into action our peer support and reintegration team. This team was developed in 2022 as a peer support team and has grown exponentially since its inception. We currently have K-9 Fergus as part of this team along with 5 other agencies that make up our Peer Support Team. We were able to fund this training and program with federal grant funds and are continuing to seek funding to keep this program going.

Maybe the most important portion of this year's challenge was implementation of our annual and critical mental health checks. The department secured a second mental health grant through the US Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act. The department was awarded \$199,829.00 to fund mental health and wellness education, annual wellness check-ins, critical incident training, and cumulative stress healing retreats. In March 2024, forty-three (43) active, retired and civilian employees conducted the first annual Mental Health Check-in and 33% of the aforementioned personnel took advantage of mental health follow-ups. It is anticipated the department will apply for a third Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness grant in 2025. Our appreciation of efforts from City Council, Police Union and our Community Leaders has not gone unnoticed in the support for this program.

We continue to challenge our supervisors and officers to come up with ways to implement problem oriented and community policing strategies. We provide them time to invent ways to bring the community together through whatever means they see fit. The department attended multiple public events in 2024 to include but not limited to the National Night Out, several trunk or treat events, police with

popsicles, open house, and several appearances by our very own emotional support dog, "Fergus". Supporting multiple local events, Fergus always arrives with a welcoming attitude and the public enjoys his unexpected appearances at "Almost Friday Fest", Trunk or Treat as well as the department's annual Shop with a Cop event. By far, this year's biggest success was National Night Out as we were able to connect with over 1,200 citizens, adults and children, while enjoying food, games and demonstrations put on by several community partners and our other city departments.

The challenge of retaining existing police officers is still in the face of many regional and local law enforcement agencies. Not to mention our challenge of recruiting qualified staff to back-fill positions created by officers who have left. The City of Muscatine and Muscatine Police Department is well aware of this and with the support of council and staff we have been able to improve and relocate our fitness center. This will allow for better equipment and an area where staff can have more room to work out and deal with stress in a healthy manor. We are also nearing the end portion of negotiations with FAA for the construction of our new training facility which will be located west of Municipal Airport in Muscatine.

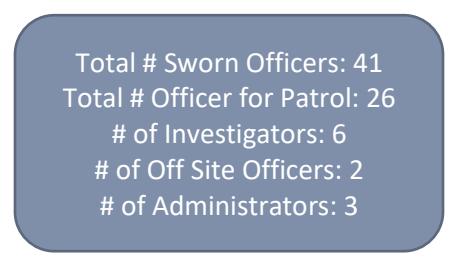
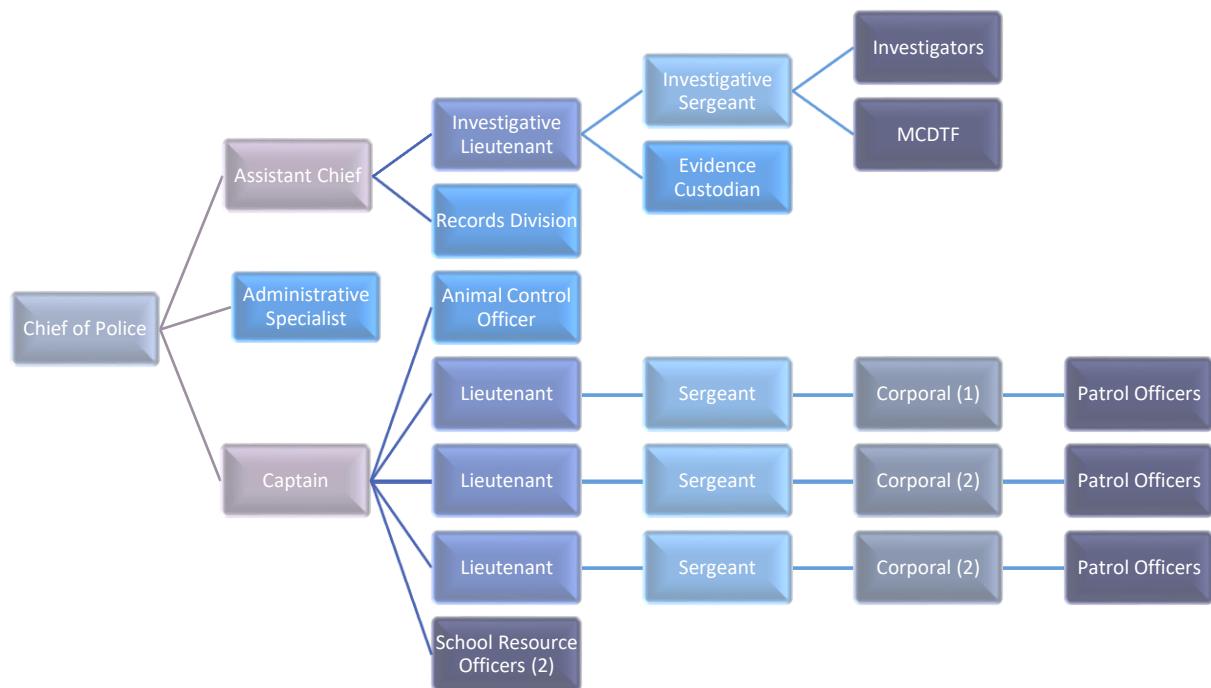
Credit for the preparation, development and gathering of the information contained herein, goes to many people. It is the combined effort of administrative, supervision, line-officers and clerical personnel. It is our hope that this information is as useful to others as it is to us as we look at the issues currently facing the department and our community as a whole.

With that, I would like to thank you for supporting our department throughout the year. As always, I hope you will find our summary of 2024 interesting and informative. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns you have to better our service to the City of Muscatine.

Anthony R. Kies, Chief of Police



Muscatine Police Department Organizational Structure



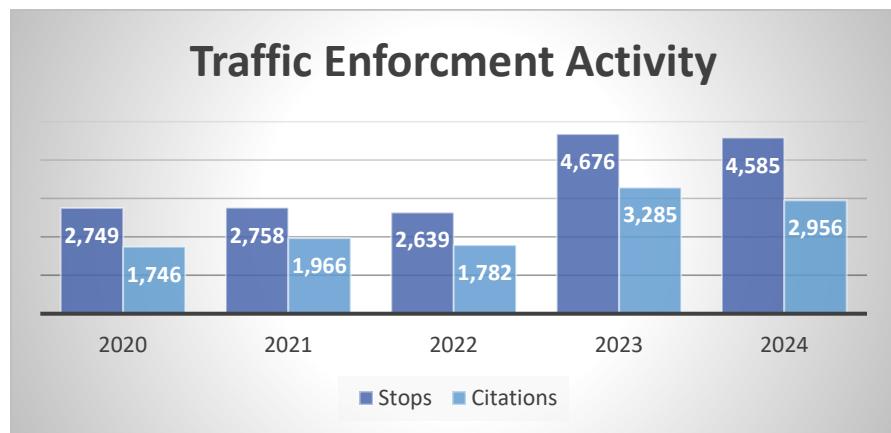
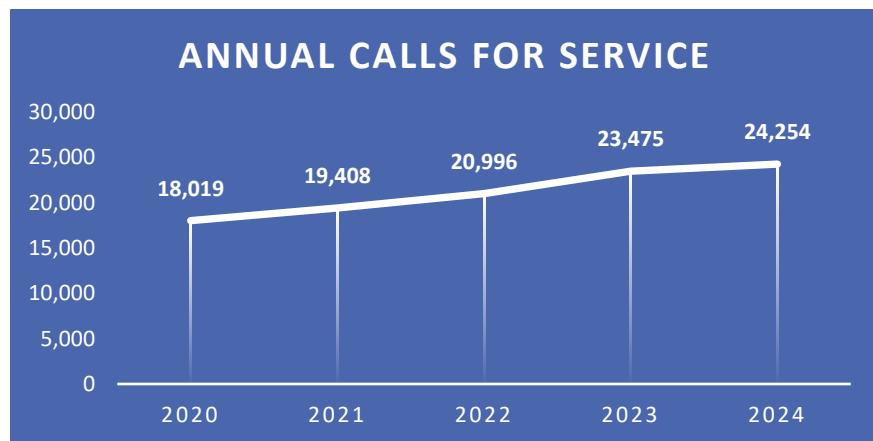
Patrol Division

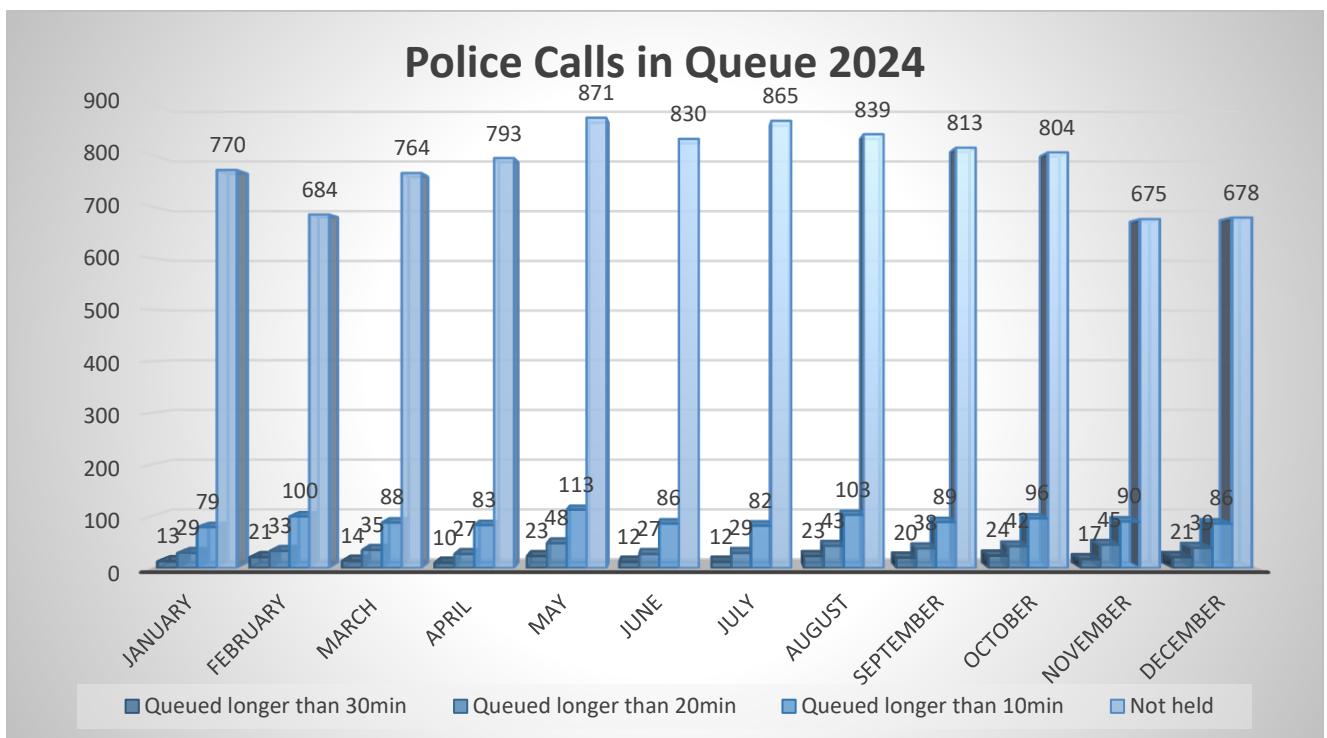
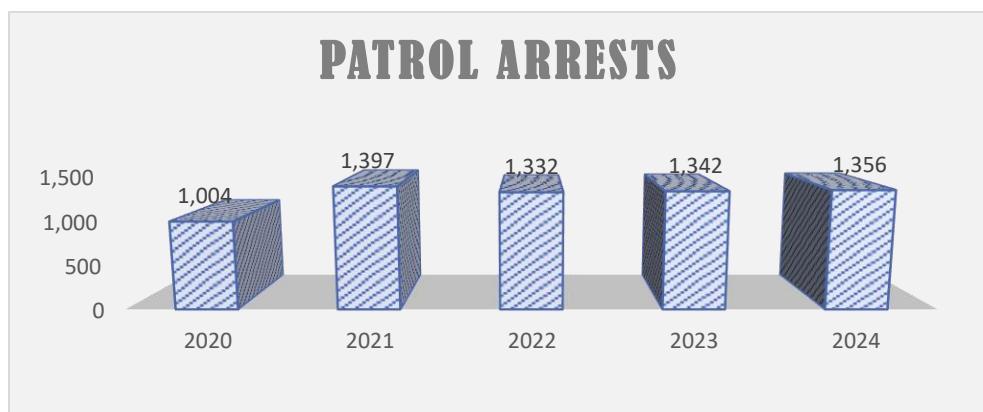
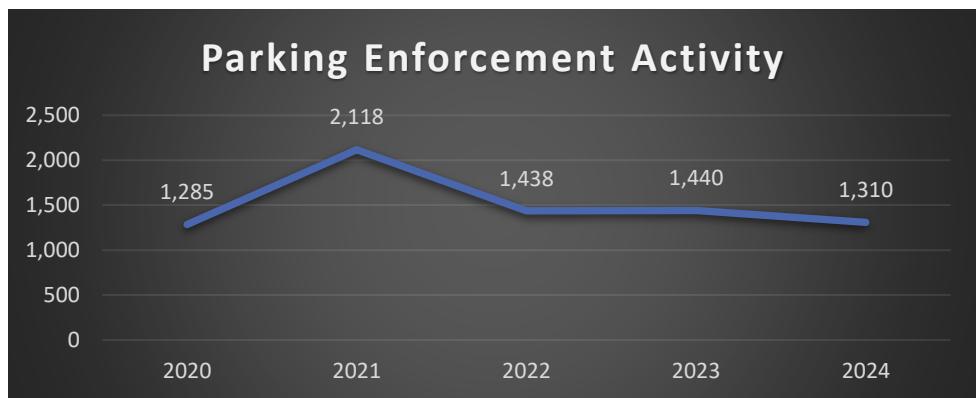
The Muscatine Police Department Patrol Divisions primary responsibility is to:

- provide uniformed law enforcement service to the community
- respond to calls for service
- deter crime by highly visible police presence
- investigate criminal activity

The patrol division consists of three lieutenants, three sergeants, five corporals and sixteen patrol officers. The patrol division operates 3 shifts, a morning, an afternoon, and a night shift. The morning shift operates on an eight hour schedule while the afternoon and night shift operate on a ten hour schedule.

The following charts reflect the patrol division's activities at a glance and include a comparison to the previous four years as a reference.





*Above CFS numbers do not include officer generated calls

As the charts reflect, patrol activities and calls for service have continued to increase over the past few years. In spite of this, members of the patrol division still make time to interact with the public through Park & Walks and other special details like Popsicles with Police.



Employee Wellness & Stress Management

Over the past couple of years, the department has placed significant emphasis on the wellbeing of our employees. A life in law enforcement comes with a considerable amount of stressors, which can impact every aspect of an officer's life. Helping our staff to recognize and cope with those stressors has shown to be invaluable. Using federal grant money, the department's mental wellness program has grown into annual mental health check-ups, an established peer support team, and critical incident debrief support. The department maintains an emotional support dog obtained in the 2023. "Fergus", a black lab, certified therapy dog is available to all first responders. Fergus is often seen at public events and currently is assigned to second shift with his handler, Officer Samantha Wheeler.



Specialty Assignments Overview

School Resource Officers



The department and school district maintain two School Resource Officers, (SROs), which is a collaborative effort between the two organizations. The SROs are imbedded in both the high school and middle school and they assist the schools in a multitude of areas including critical incident preparation and training. They are involved with the behavior student success team, which is a team made up of staff members committed to decreasing student's negative behavior. The behavior team addresses student tardiness, attendance skipping, write ups and much more.

Junior High Arrests

- Drug Possession - 8
- Assault -3
- Harassment - 1
- Vape/Tobacco -7

High School Arrests

- Drug Possession - 19
- Assault - 1
- Harassment/Trespass - 3
- Vape/Tobacco - 56

District Wide Truancy Arrests - 40

Canine Unit

The Muscatine K-9 Unit consists of two dog & handler (K-9) teams. The department saw turn over with both dogs in 2024. Officer Wilkinson's K-9 (Dexter) became ill and passed away. He was replaced with K-9, Frenkie. Handler Corporal Griffin left the department after accepting a position with the Louisa County Sheriff's Office. His K-9, Dino, was sold to Louisa County and remained with his handler. Officer Reddick replaced Corporal Griffin's position with his new K-9, Riki.

The K-9 teams are dual-purpose dogs, meaning they are trained in both narcotic detection as well as street patrol tactics.

Gone but Not Forgotten

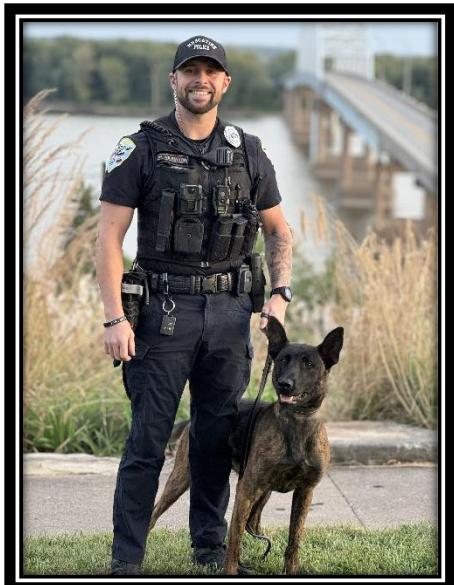


Dexter

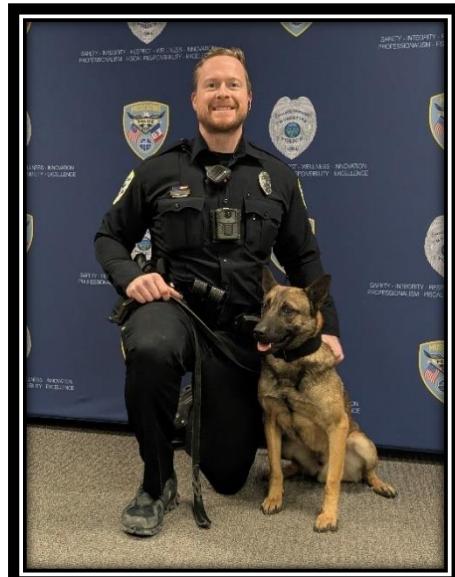


Dino

Welcome to the Team



Frenkie



Riki

Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT)

The Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT) is a specialized unit consisting of individuals who have received additional training in weapons handling and tactical incidents. The MSORT consists of a snipers unit, an entry unit, tactical emergency medical personnel or TEMS unit and a negotiator unit. It is a multi-jurisdictional team comprised of law enforcement officers from Muscatine, Louisa, and Cedar Counties. All associated agencies have entered into an MOU and a board oversees the operations of MSORT. The team is utilized for everything from high risk search warrants, barricade/hostage situations, to active shooter situations. MSORT trains in a variety of environments to keep their skills up to date and sharp.

MSORT was called out on 5 occasions in 2024 and provided technical assistance on several other incidents. The call outs involved high risk drug and arrest warrants, a barricaded subject, and a search warrant for a violent sexual offender. These call outs resulted in 6 felony arrests and the seizure of 25 firearms and various forms of drugs.

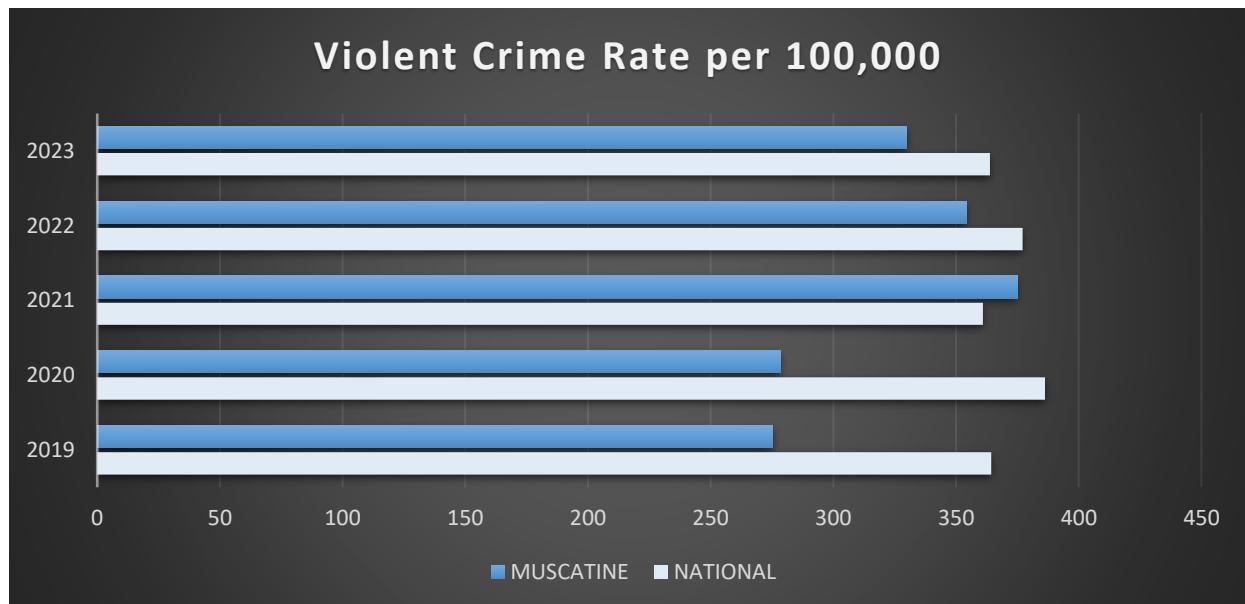
Muscatine Evidence Technician Program

The Muscatine Evidence Technician (MET) program is comprised of a small group of officers who have received specialized training in photography, collection, and the processing of evidence. They work on an on-call basis throughout the year and are relied upon to process all major crime scenes, which can include everything from burglaries, shootings, to homicide investigations. One of the largest scenes they had to contend with this year was the Welch Apartment burglaries. This was a huge crime scene with a considerable amount of evidence. The entire team was brought in to work the scene. In all, it took the MET members over 16 hours to complete the processing of this scene which resulted in a very successful prosecution of the individual responsible.

Investigations Division

The Muscatine Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division consists of two units, the Major Crimes Unit, (MCU) and the Muscatine County Drug Task Force Unit, (DTF). A reorganization took place in 2024 and the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) was disbanded. One of its members was reassigned to the patrol division and the other member was absorbed into the (MCU). This increased the MCU from (3) members to (4) members. The (DTF) consists of (2) investigators who are assigned to the multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force.

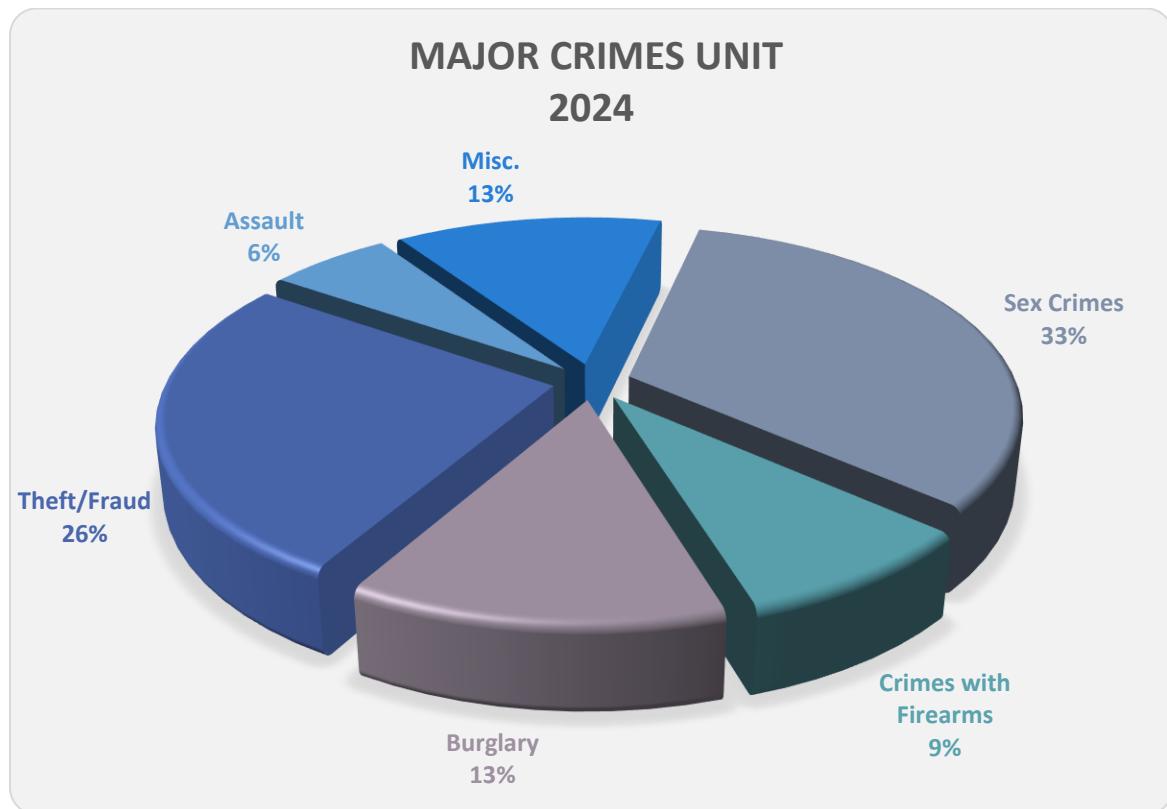
The Lieutenant and Sergeant of Investigations both share the responsibility of overseeing the daily operations of these units. They are also responsible for the department's ATE, Accreditation and Evidence Management programs.



Major Crimes Unit (MCU)

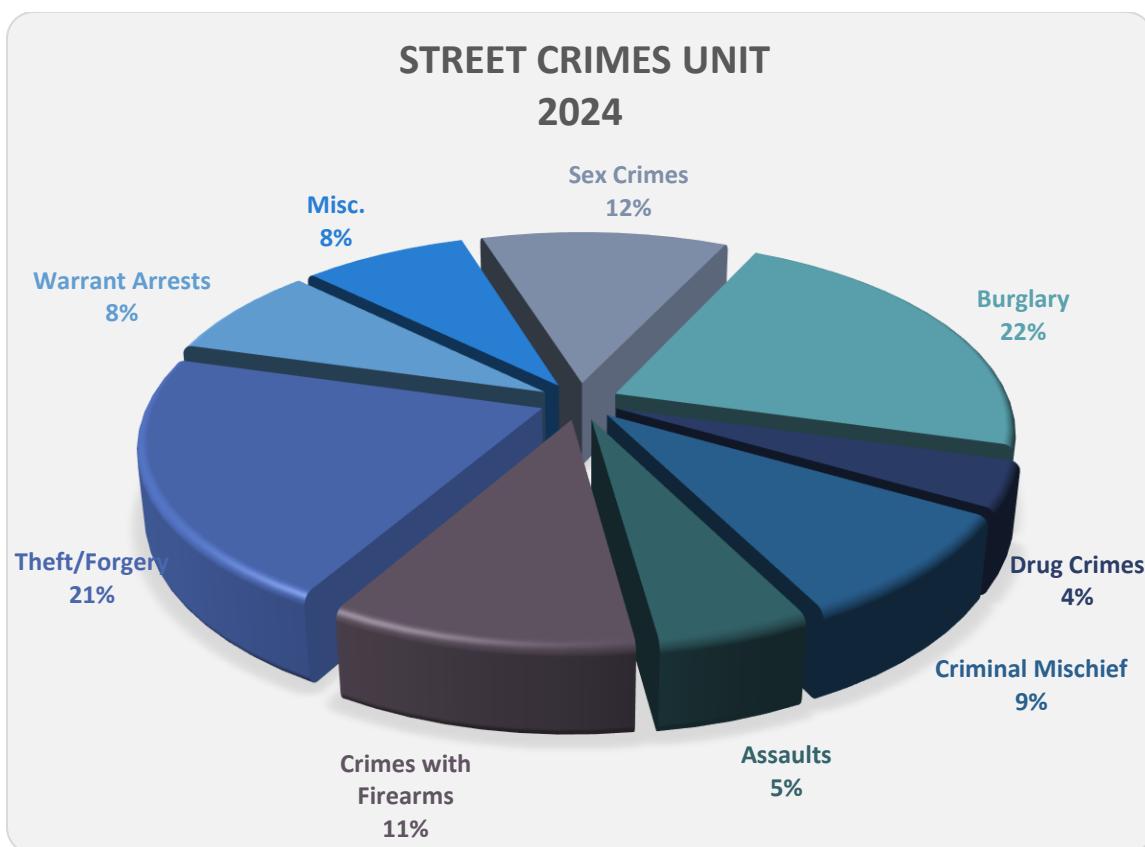
The MCU investigates major property crimes, financial crimes, and both sexual and violent crimes. Some highlights of major cases handled this year include the Welch Apartment burglaries, which involved thirteen (13) separate victims. Two (2) attempted murder cases, one involving Guillermo Palomar and the other involving Tatianna Scott, and a weapon assault case that resulted in the seizure of eight (8) firearms and methamphetamine from a convicted felon.

In 2024, the MCU was assigned 183 investigations. The MCU totaled 81 arrests or requests for arrest warrants in 2024 and served approximately 92 search warrants. The MCU had an 82% case clearance rate. The following chart represents a breakdown of the types of cases MCU was assigned in 2024.



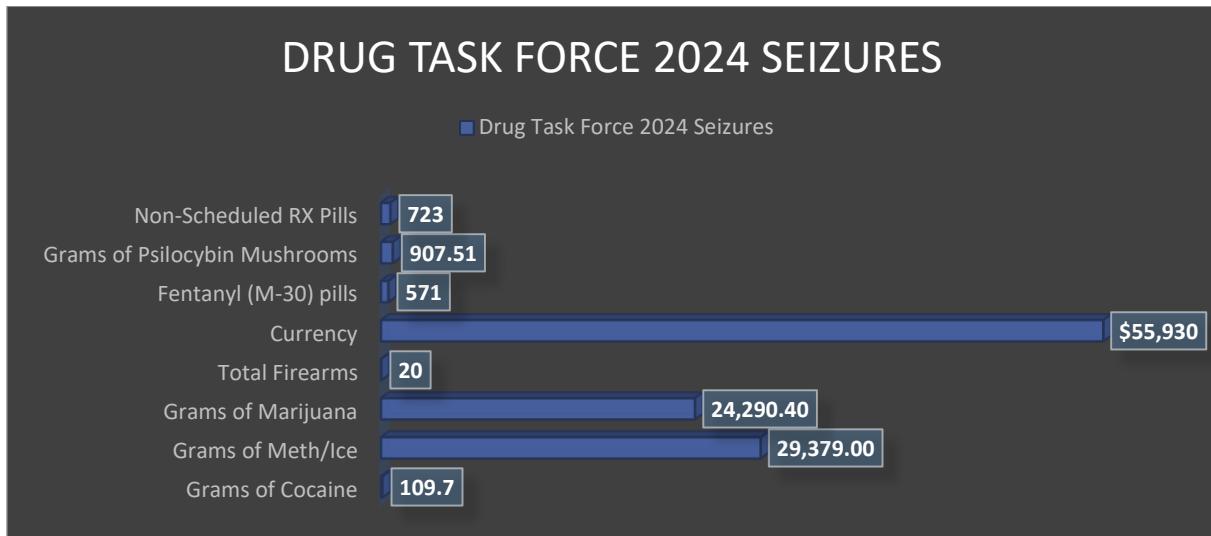
Street Crimes Unit (SCU)

Prior to being disbanded in June, the SCU was assigned or self-generated 76 cases, made 33 arrests, and had 14 arrest warrant requests. The SCU had an 86% case clearance rate. The SCU also handled a major felony criminal mischief case where multiple windows were broken out of the YMCA. Types of cases assigned to the SCU in 2024 are reflected in the chart below.



Muscatine County Drug Task Force (DTF)

The Muscatine County DTF functions as a joint multi-jurisdictional task force that covers Muscatine County, Cedar County, and Louisa County of which the Muscatine Police Department has two full time investigators assigned to this task force. In 2024 the DTF executed (101) search warrants resulting in (47) arrests. The chart below reflects the various seizures for 2024.



Community Projects & Events (COP)

Sir Robert Peel, who is regarded as the father to modern day law enforcement, had this to say about policing, *“The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interest of community welfare and existence.”*

It is the philosophy of the Muscatine Police Department that successful policing does not occur in a vacuum. It is crucial for the department to have the support and involvement of the community in our duties. With this in mind, the Muscatine Police Department continually operates and/or maintains involvement in numerous community projects and programs, allowing for greater communication and interaction between citizens and law enforcement. Building bridges within our community and opening lines of communication is at the heart of how we police.

The following is a quick look at just a few of the programs we either initiated or participated in throughout 2024.

Junior Police Academy

In partnership with the Muscatine Community College, the department held the 4th Junior Police Academy. Twelve students participated in the multi day event and two scholarships were awarded to the top performers.



Crime Free Housing Initiative

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program is all about police and landlords working together to reduce crime and improve the safety of their properties. There are three (3) phases that a property owner must complete to get recognized as being certified through the program. In 2024 there were (7) properties that were certified through Phase III of the program.



National Night Out

The 2024 National Night Out was a huge success. It was held downtown this year and drew a considerable crowd. It provided lots of interaction between officers and the community as well as several other organizations who decided to participate. The police department partnered with HyVee and provided free food during the event.



Coffee with a Cop

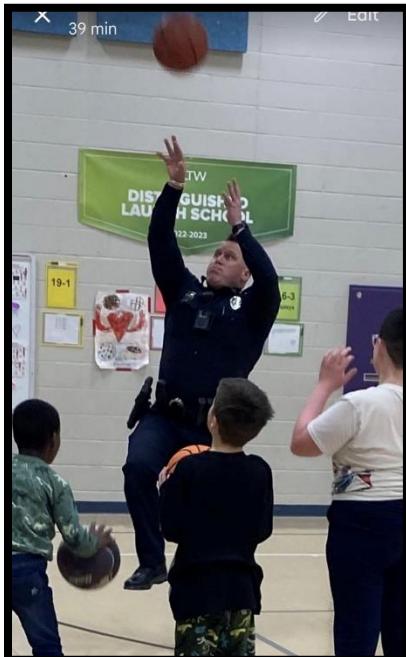


The “Coffee with a Cop” Program was held a few times throughout 2024. Its goal is to give people the opportunity to speak and interact with officers in a relaxed atmosphere. Different businesses participated in sponsoring the event providing the location and coffee.

Bigs In Blue



During the 23/24 school year, the department was asked to become part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program by participating in Bigs In Blue. This program sets up officers to meet with their Littles once a week for 45 minutes, during their school day. The program got off the ground in January of 2024 with (3) officers. It has continued into the 24/25 school year with two more officers joining the program. It has been a great way to interact and mentor kids.



Popsicles with Police

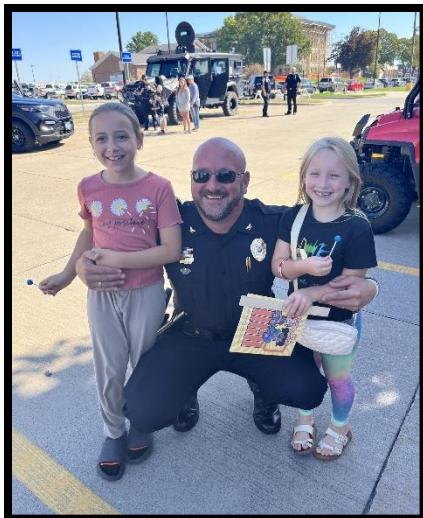


The popsicles with police program began in 2024 and was developed by one of the patrol Lieutenants. The concept was simple, create an atmosphere where officers can interact with kids in a fun and carefree way. Partnering with Muscatine Power and Water, the program targeted multi housing units. The fire hydrant was opened up and the kids and residents were invited to come out and play in the water, with the popsicles being provided by the police. It was a smash hit and a lot of fun was had by all!



Public Safety Open House

Several departments participated in the 2024 Public Safety Open House. The Fire, Police, Muscom, and County Sheriff's departments all participated in the event. Lots of fun had and the department received a lot of positive feedback from those that attended.



These are just a hand full of events the police department took advantage of in an effort to connect with our citizens. To list them all would be too much. To us, the benefits are clear when it comes to engaging and connecting with our community.

Shop with a Cop

The 2024 Shop with a Cop program had 80 children participating. The Muscatine Police Officer's Association was able to sponsor a \$150 shopping spree per child thanks to generosity of community donors. The participating families were referred to the Association through the school district. This program truly has an impact and makes a difference to these families during the holiday season. A great and worthwhile program, one we hope to see continue for years to come.





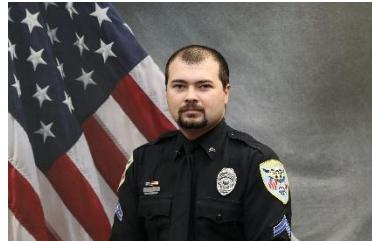


Staffing Changes in 2024

Departures



Officer Nardini



Cpl. Griffin



Cpl. Horton

Arrivals



Officer Baughman

Promotions



Lieutenant Hazelett

2024 Recognitions and Awards

Life Saving Awards



Corporal Griffin, Officer Wilkinson, Officer Middagh, and Detective Jameson were all recipients of a lifesaving award in 2024

2024 Officers of the Year



Two officer of the year recognitions happened in 2024. Officer Middagh was recognized as “Officer of the Year” by the Iowa Association of Women Police, and Lieutenant Hesseling was recognized as “Officer of the Year” at the department’s annual banquet.

2024 Volunteer of the Year



Officer Pena was recognized as the City of Muscatine's
Volunteer of the Year by GMCCI

Medal of Merit Award



Captain Jirak was the recipient of the Medal of Merit. He was recognized for two years of tireless effort as he worked on establishing the department's Peer Support Team and improving mental wellness and care for all personnel.

Good people doing good things!



**SAFETY – INTEGRITY – RESPECT – WELLNESS - INNOVATION
PROFESSIONALISM - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY - EXCELLENCE**