



Moorhead Police Department



2023 Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT

“Our mission is to maintain peace and order through the provision of police services that are of the highest quality and responsive to the needs of the community. We will contribute to the safety and security of the community by apprehending those who commit criminal acts, by developing partnerships to prevent, reduce or eliminate neighborhood problems, and by providing police services that are fair, unbiased, judicious, and respectful of the dignity of all individuals.”

Shannon Monroe
Chief of Police



VISION STATEMENT

We, the members of the Moorhead Police Department, are committed to working together in a problem-solving partnership *with the community* to prevent crime and improve the quality of life for all.

VALUE STATEMENTS

Safety - The protection of human life is our biggest priority.

Cooperation - We are committed to working cooperatively with the community and each other by encouraging open communication and active participation to achieve our mutual goals.

Fairness - We strive to resolve conflict through impartial enforcement of law. Everyone shall be treated equitably and compassionately.

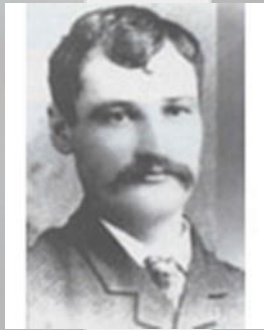
Crime Prevention - We will work in a partnership with the community through positive role-modeling and education.

Diversity - We appreciate one another's differences and recognize that our unique skills, knowledge, abilities, and backgrounds bring strength and caring to our community.

Professionalism - Our success depends on the trust and confidence of the community. We shall always engage in respectful behavior that reflects the honesty and integrity of police professionals.

In Remembrance:

The department was established in 1881. Three of our police officers lost their lives in service to this community. In our effort to never forget their sacrifice, this page is dedicated to them. We also have named our training rooms in our new Law Enforcement Center after them as a reminder to all who enter so we never forget that they gave up all their tomorrows for our todays. We are grateful.



1888 – Officer Peter Poull, Jr.

Shot and killed by a murder suspect while assisting two other officers taken hostage at gunpoint at 8 Street and Center Avenue, where Wells Fargo now stands. The suspect was convicted and executed on September 20, 1889.



1899 – Officer Alexander "Sandy" McClean

Struck by falling debris while clearing people away from a house fire in what is now Viking Ship Park north of the Hjemkomst Center.



1930 – Officer Roy Larson

Shot and killed by Ray Liggett, a bank robber who fled from Fargo Police. Larson cornered the suspect near the coal shed of the Interior Lumber Company after several shoot outs with other officers. The suspect was arrested and sentenced to life.

Table of Contents

Message from the Chief	6
Honor Guard	7
Moorhead Police and Athletics League	8
Youth and Family Services	10
Citizens Police Academy	16
Night to Unite	18
Support Services	19
Crime Free Multi-Housing	21
Volunteer Program	22
Cadet Program	25
Wellness Program	26
Patrol Division	27
Crime Analysis	34
Crime Data	35
K9 Unit	36
Investigative Division	38
Property and Evidence Unit	50
SWAT	52

Message from the Chief of Police

The members of the Moorhead Police Department, from Patrol, Investigations, Administration, to Support Services, worked very hard this past year on our priority to reduce and eliminate repeat calls for service through the identification of root problems and partnering with others to solve problems. This is at the core of our mission statement.

In 2019, we were seeing call numbers rise more quickly than we had officers to respond. Hiring more officers to keep up was not feasible and we needed a new strategy. We focused on repeat calls, working with partners in Neighborhood Services, the Fire Department, Social Services, neighborhood groups, business owners, and property owners to identify issues and work together for a resolution.



Our calls peaked in 2019, at just over 40,000 for the year. Our Crime Analyst assisted us in focusing limited resources on problem spots. We have maintained call numbers around 32-34,000 annually since. That is 6,000 calls fewer than 2019, and closer to call numbers of a decade ago while also growing 18% in population, through civil unrest, a world-wide pandemic, and a time with no mutual aid from our neighbors. That savings in calls to respond to during staffing shortages in this time of crisis for finding and retaining police officers has been crucial in enabling our patrol officers to meet call demands. For 2024, we are adding a Community Resource Navigator (social worker trained person) to further our efforts with a focus on mental health response, homelessness issues, and substance abuse. This is not to provide direct services, but rather to link people in crisis to appropriate existing resources.

The shortage of police officers has approached a crisis. To combat this issue, we had already started a full-time recruiter position years ago as we saw this on the horizon, added a Cadet Program as a feeder system in our hiring process with emphasis on attracting women and minorities, we received grants for assisting applicants to obtain education and skills training, offered retention bonuses, hiring bonuses for new hires and lateral hires, while continuing our youth programs to get our youth interested in law enforcement careers. We continue, with strong support from our city council, to look for new initiatives to help keep Moorhead safe now and into the future.

Over this past year, we received recognition from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust and Benchmark Analytics with their iMPACT program. The iMPACT program adapts the best-practice risk management frameworks published by leading organizations' Risk Management and Quality Improvement standards. This is a testament to the effective policies and procedures we employ.

The members of the City of Moorhead Police Department look forward to serving our community in 2024.

Honor Guard Unit

The Moorhead Police Honor Guard Unit is comprised of ten officers that show a desire to display respect to this profession and represent this department in public appearances. The Honor Guard Unit is scheduled to train twice throughout the year. All members without military drill and ceremony experience attend a week-long training at Camp Ripley facilitated by LEMA, the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association.

Members of the team participated in several events in 2023:

- Norman County Jeremy Thornton funeral
- Pope County Deputy Josh Owen funeral
- Law Enforcement Memorial Day presentation with other Metro Area Honor Guards
- Fargo Police Officer Jake Wallin funeral and separate memorial service
- Parade and colors presentation at Moorhead homecoming football game
- Colors presentation for Moorhead K9 Zeke service
- Mercer County Deputy Paul Martin funeral

Members Collins, M. Hanson, and Johnson stepped down from the team this year due to resignation. Collins and M. Hanson were not fully operational when they stepped down. Johnson was a long-time member of the team.





Moorhead Police Athletics and Activities League

2023 was the sixth year of the Moorhead Police Athletics and Activities League. Formed in 2017, and beginning programming in 2018, the Moorhead PAL chapter has a continuing goal to reduce juvenile crime through establishing positive police contacts with area youth. The focus of the program is at risk and disadvantaged youth. We run several events throughout the year and manage the Police Explorer Post. Over 120 officers from the area volunteered over 745 hours to further our mission this year. The following are ways PAL connected with youth in 2023:

- Cops and Kids Games – 33 kids
- Bikes for Kids – 64 kids
- Shop-with-a-Cop sponsored by Target – 63 kids.
- Explorer Post – 8 kids
- Giving Tree at Churches United for the Homeless – 14 kids
- Pitch, Hit, Run – 63 kids.
- Safe City Nights (formerly Police in the Parks) – 225 kids

In addition, PAL sponsored two baseball teams that were coached by officers that volunteered their time working with youth. In total, 567 youth were served by PAL. Several officers coached other teams in other sports as well. Details on all these events can be found at www.moorheadpal.org and on our Facebook page. Moorhead PAL is a registered 501c3 and is governed by a board of directors that includes members of Moorhead education institutions, Moorhead Parks and Recreation, and citizens that help identify needs in the community.





Youth and Family Services Unit

The mission of the Youth and Family Service (YFS) Unit is to serve as youth mentors through constant presence and communication with youth to establish and build rapport, to educate through such courses as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), the Summer Youth Program and Change Starts with YOUth camp in an effort to impact prevention by offering healthy alternatives, and finally to maintain order and deliver police services in the Moorhead School District.

Personnel

The YFS Unit personnel include two School Resource Officers (SROs) Officer Andrew Werk and Officer Jessica Horn; a full-time SRO/DARE Officer, Officer Brandon Heide; Youth Service Coordinator (YSC) Louis Ochoa; Captain Deric Swenson – Supervision; Lieutenant Mike Detloff – Supervision; Sergeant Scott Kostohryz – Assistant Supervision and Community Policing Coordinator Leann Wallin – Financial and Program Management. Lieutenant Brad Penas retired in April and Patrol Lieutenant Mike



Detloff took his place as the Investigations Lieutenant. In June, SRO Jordan Werk was promoted to Detective and Officer Jessica Horn was selected as her replacement.

History

The Moorhead Police Department began assigning officers to schools in 1999 through the assistance of grants to fund the positions. Prior to 1999, officers responded after an incident with an officer that did not know the involved children or the school officials and could only respond with enforcement action. Since 1999, the SROs have been accepted by the students and have established positive relationships with students. This relationship has made the officers more approachable and has led to tips and reports that have allowed the SROs and schools to intervene in numerous instances and head-off larger problems.

New Law Interpretations Bring Challenges to SRO Program

On August 9, just weeks before SROs would be heading back to school, the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) issued a “Special Update” relating to statutory changes regarding use of force by school resource officers and other officers working in school settings. In the Special Update, the LMCIT outlined the principal issues being the “use of force by SROs and other agents of a school district; limitations on circumstances allowing the use of force toward students; restrictions on prone and compressive restraint.”

The statutory language change was made in the education policy Minnesota Statute 121A, which governs student rights, responsibilities, and behavior. The effects of changes made to sections 121A.58 and 121A.582 are to: 1) limit the use of force toward pupils to situations where it is necessary to prevent bodily harm or death; 2) prohibit the use of prone restraint; and 3) prohibit the use of compressive restraint on the head, neck, and across most of the torso. Jeff Potts, Executive Director of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police stated “Prohibiting the most basic measure of safely restraining and controlling the aggressor in a fight severely impacts the SRO's ability to intervene, stop the altercation, and protect everyone’s safety. The new law restricts the SRO from separating those involved in the fight or altercation, safely holding them on the floor while trying to calm them down. Again, this is a measure used commonly in schools by SROs to keep all children safe. With the passage of this law, these professional and expected measures of an SRO would be illegal and further subject the officer and their department to criminal and civil liability.”

Due to construction of the new Moorhead High School, classes were set to commence prior to the Labor Day Holiday. This meant that the Moorhead Police Department would be the first department to make the decision about whether to send their SROs into the schools. After meetings with Senator Rob Kupec, Moorhead Public School Superintendent Brandon Lunak, and several discussions with the Moorhead City Manager and our City and County attorneys, the decision was made to suspend the agreement with Moorhead Area Public Schools to provide School Resource Officers pending further clarification/law changes to the new law regarding SROs. Most police and sheriff’s departments across the state followed suit and suspended their SRO contracts. The SROs were reassigned to patrol until October 6, after clarification and legal opinions were issued that Chief Monroe felt comfortable reinstating the SROs back into the schools.

Programs

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE): Founded in Los Angeles in 1983 and started in Moorhead in 1990. It is a police officer led curriculum that facilitates a discussion with children on how to resist peer pressure and live healthy, productive drug and violence free lives through making healthy choices and being bully free. The program has been ranked among the top 3 most cost-effective preventive programs by a study by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA.) The study found that the cost benefit of \$28 in benefits for every \$1 spent. DARE is taught in the 5th grade in Moorhead and this year approximately 550 students graduated from the program.



Moorhead Police Summer Youth Program (SYP): Funded through a grant from the Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, SYP is an 8-week summer program for up to 200, 8-12 year-olds offering youth a healthy and educational summer alternative where the curriculum is mixed with fun and interesting activities. This year participants were provided a number of educational topics including bus safety, fire safety, internet safety, bike safety, mental health and wellness and first aid and safety education with Sanford Ambulance. Moorhead Police Department K9 teams gave a demonstration for the kids. We also attended field trips to the Red River Zoo, Marcus Century Theater, Courts Plus, Skate City, and Thunder Road Amusement Park.



Change Starts with YOUth at-risk summer camp: This is a program designed for officers to work with a small group of at-risk youth, ages 12-15, which focuses on building positive relationships with law enforcement while learning about positive choices for a successful future. Participants are youth referred by school staff, social services, mental health professionals, probation officers and law enforcement officers. This summer nine boys spent a total of six days together under the guidance of the SROs and Youth Services Coordinator Louis Ochoa.

Participants received education about Native American culture, basic first aid from Sanford Ambulance and took a personality and life skills test at MState college to see what type of schooling they would need based on their test results. They went on a tour of the West Central Juvenile Detention Center, met with a National Army Guard recruiter and completed a physical fitness test, and they participated in a CrossFit workout and mentorship program at EHP Fitness. The boys also received presentations from the Moorhead Police Department K9 teams, Red River Valley SWAT Bomb Unit, and Moorhead High School Counselor Angela Keeping spoke on mental health and wellness. Something new this year was bringing the boys to a Character Challenge high ropes course in Park Rapids. The course challenged the boys' courage, skills, and ability to work together as well as develop trust with one another. Additionally, they spent time doing fun activities like bowling and playing basketball.



Not a Number: The Not a Number curriculum was completed twice at Horizon Middle School with one session of eight 7th grade students and one session of eight 8th grade students. Students were referred to the group through the Horizon school counseling department. Advocates at Rape & Abuse Crisis Center are certified facilitators through LOVE146 and facilitated these group sessions. Not a Number is an interactive, five module curriculum, that engages youth in conversation and education about human trafficking, exploitation, healthy relationships, and safety planning. The Rape & Abuse Crisis Center teamed up with Horizon Middle School and Moorhead Police Department to provide this to the students along with providing lunches during these sessions.

Assignments

SRO/DARE Officer Brandon Heide

Officer Heide served as a School Resource Officer in the elementary and middle schools providing law enforcement services. In addition, he taught twenty DARE classes in 2023 to approximately 550 students. In the summer, he also assisted with coordinating the Change Starts with YOUth at risk-camp, Summer Youth Program and filled patrol shifts.

SRO Jessica Horn

Officer Horn is assigned as the School Resource Officer for Horizon Middle School East Campus and Horizon Middle School West Campus. Horizon houses over 2,000 students between the two campuses with grades 5-8. Officer Horn spends time building relationships with students, their families, and school staff. She provides school safety and security and handles police incidents on campus. In the summer she assisted with the Change Starts with YOUth at-risk camp, Summer Youth Program and filled patrol shifts.

SRO Andrew Werk

Officer Werk is the School Resource Officer at the Moorhead High School. He mentors students with various problems, handles police incidents and patrols on and around the school property. He gets into the classroom as much as he can to provide education on various topics. SRO Werk teaches the Point of Impact class for the Driver's Ed students at the high school and their parents to make student drivers and their parents more aware of the responsibilities of being a prepared driver. In the summer he assisted with the Change Starts with YOUth at-risk camp, Summer Youth Program and filled patrol shifts.

Youth Services Coordinator Louis Ochoa

Youth Services Coordinator (YSC) Ochoa is a non-sworn or civilian employee that during the school year works and teaches at the new Moorhead High School Career Academy and Moorhead Alternative Learning Center located at 2800 27th Avenue South in Moorhead. He works with youth that have disorderly/behavioral issues, truancy problems and serves as a youth mentor. YSC Ochoa is involved with a program called "Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity" (SEED). SEED is about understanding our diverse population of students and families in our schools. It teaches about the different cultures in our community and how we can work with and understand our community. YSC Ochoa's role is to work with families and students and mentor them by understanding their culture, their background and beliefs. YSC Ochoa is also a part of the Building Emergency Response Team at the new Career Academy. During the summer, he assisted with the Change Starts with YOUth at-risk camp, the Summer Youth Program, and conducted the juvenile community service program.



Partnerships

Our YFS team works collaboratively with Clay County Social Services, Moorhead Public Schools, Minnesota Department of Corrections, truancy intervention family advocates, Clay County Re-entry Services, Clay County Attorney’s Office, Clay County Restorative Justice, Clay County Sheriff’s Office, Lakeland Mental Health and Solutions. In addition to working with these agencies throughout the year, these agencies also provide staff to serve as volunteer mentors for our Summer Youth Program.

Another organization we partner with is the Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA). MPD is a member of this non-profit association, made up of member organizations, who provide trainings for youth workers and provides advocacy to raise awareness, gain support and secure funding for youth intervention programs. YSC Ochoa served the third year of his three-year term as the President on the board of YIPA.

Juvenile Crime Statistics: Below is a comparison of years involving juvenile offenders:

Offense Type	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	20	10	13	14
Arson	1	1	0	0
Assault	60	102	86	48
Burglary	4	7	9	6
Disorderly Conduct	46	61	59	22
Driving Under the Influence	2	7	4	4
Drug	11	24	14	0
Flee/Obstruct	18	33	16	21
Fraud	1	3	0	0
Other	5	5	4	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	4	4	1	2
Robbery	2	1	3	1
Runaway	79	81	90	78
Sexual Assault	17	15	14	2
Theft	50	16	14	16
Tobacco	21	10	2	0
Traffic	52	77	102	84
Trespass	5	3	5	4
Vandalism	26	15	22	11
Weapon Law Violation	1	7	3	5
Grand Total	423	482	461	318

Community Service Referrals

Historical Data:

YSC Ochoa works with a partnership between the police, probation, social services, shelter care and schools with youth at risk by taking on juvenile court community service referrals where he takes kids out to work sites to complete community service sentences. Since 1997, 48,091 hours of community service work have been completed by youth. The community service work completed in Moorhead consists of tasks that benefit the city such as graffiti removal, transient camp clean-up, parks, ditches and public spaces cleaning, mowing, shoveling snow around fire hydrants, painting buildings, set-up and tear down for city events, inventory found and stolen bikes and the like which may have otherwise been completed by city personnel.

2023 Community Service Program Statistics:

Total hours referred: 951

Total hours completed: 943

This is a 99.16% completion rate for 2023

Referrals are also made to the Community Service Program under the Juvenile Offender Restitution Program. Since 1997, 6,879 hours of restitution performed by area youth has equated to \$46,442. This money is paid back to victims.

2023 Juvenile Offender Restitution Program Statistics:

Total hours referred: 221

Total hours completed: 221

This is a 100% completion rate for 2023



Community Policing Coordinator Leann Wallin presents Operation Lifesaver's rail safety program to students and adults throughout the Moorhead-Fargo-West Fargo metro. She completed 7 presentations to Moorhead High School driver's education classes and Let's Get Rolling Driving School, reaching a total of 180 students. She also presented to 244 pre-kindergartners at Safety Town.

During National Rail Safety week, September 18-24, three Moorhead High School youth assisted Louis Ochoa and Leann Wallin with a stencil project to raise awareness of rail safety for pedestrians. They used spray chalk paint to stencil the "See Tracks? Think Train" logo on the sidewalks at several railroad crossings in downtown Moorhead.





Citizens Police Academy

The Moorhead Police Department hosted its 27th Citizens Police Academy (CPA) from September 14 to November 16, 2023, to a class of 24 students. This free program is open to all members of the community and is designed to help the public understand the policies, procedures and protocol of the police department as well as learn what it is like to be the men and women sworn to protect and serve this community. It is an opportunity for the Moorhead Police Department to hear directly about the concerns and needs of the citizens they serve. Several CPA graduates have gone on to become Moorhead Police Volunteers. One graduate decided to become a Moorhead Police Volunteer. The Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association was established as a way for participants to stay connected to the department.

Evaluations are given to students after each week; as well as a final, comprehensive evaluation at the end of the program. Here are just a few of the participants' comments:

"Every aspect of CPA was very informative and enjoyable. Meticulously laid out program that jam packs a fun experience while learning about the realities of law enforcement."

"I absolutely loved this experience! By taking this class and forming relationships with officers, I hope to be a catalyst for change in how people think of police. These men and women are good people."

"What an awesome program! I'm so glad this exists, and that the community is growing their understanding of the MPD! It was eye-opening for me, and the number of hands-on activities kept the learning experience engaging—I loved it!"

"The information in this class was so amazing and informative. I have learned so much and have a whole different understanding of law enforcement."

"It was so reaffirming to learn how professional and community focused MPD is. It was very evident that everyone cares deeply about our community."

"The CPA was a highlight of my year! I am deeply grateful that I live in a community that puts on programming such as this."

"I want to extend thanks and appreciation to the MPD for opening the doors of opportunity for me to participate in this significant community policing program."

"MPD is awesome! Thank you for this opportunity! I have learned so much."

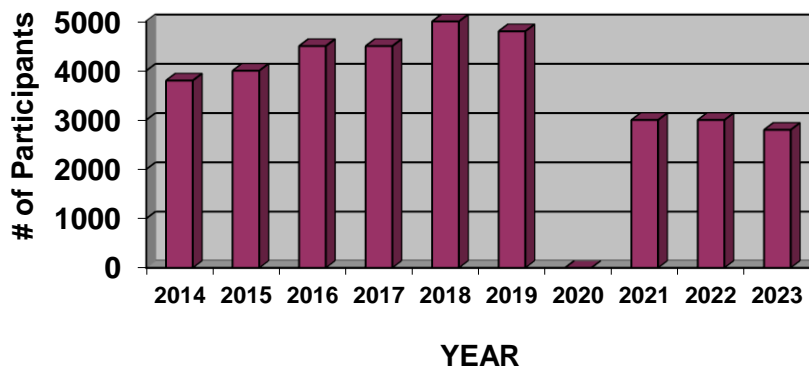
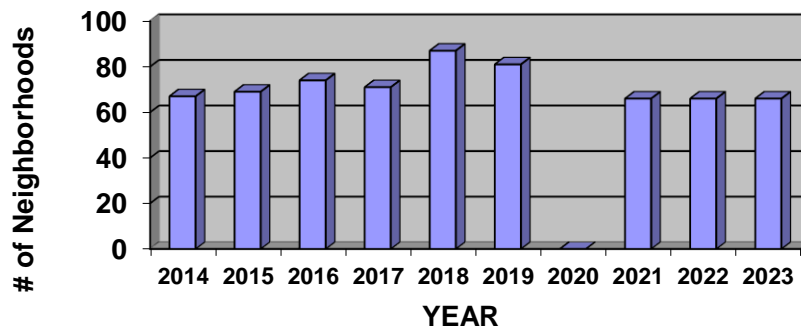


Citizens Police Academy Class of 2023

Night to Unite



This year's event involved approximately 2,800 Moorhead residents in 66 different neighborhoods. Eight neighborhoods joined in the fun this year by hosting their first parties! Coincidentally this was the third year in a row where we have had 66 parties. Despite gaining new parties, others have unfortunately gone by the wayside. Some party hosts have moved away, and others are at an age where it has become too difficult to host their party. Unfortunately, in some cases no one else steps up to keep Night to Unite alive in their neighborhood. The weather was hot and humid, and a heavy downpour passed through affecting a few parties. Luckily it moved through fast and most of the parties came back together and continued their gathering. All in all, it was another great night of neighbors connecting and uniting in their commitment to safe, crime-free neighborhoods.



Support Services

The Support Services Division consists of an Office Manager, 2 Support Services Supervisors, 4 full-time Records Specialists, 1 part-time Office Specialist, 1 full-time Evidence Technician/TAC, 2 full-time Power Typists, 4 part-time Power Typists and 2 Community Service Officers.

There were no changes in staffing in the Records Division in 2023.

Records staff received over 17,600 phone calls in 2023, averaging 70 calls per day, 8 calls per hour.

They processed over 6,018 incident reports.

3,044 requests were made by the City and County Attorney’s Offices for squad videos, photos, audios, and other items.

1,349 incidents were referred to the City and County Attorney’s Offices for prosecution.

Dictation: 5,041 audio files, squad videos, and officer dictated reports were transcribed; over 4,426 hours of staff time was dedicated to transcribing these items. There was 764 hours of officer dictation.

265 impounded vehicles were processed and released.

Intake of 3,064 pieces of evidence and 30 Cellebrite cell phone exams.

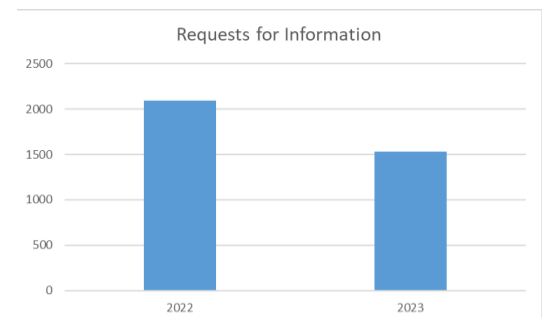
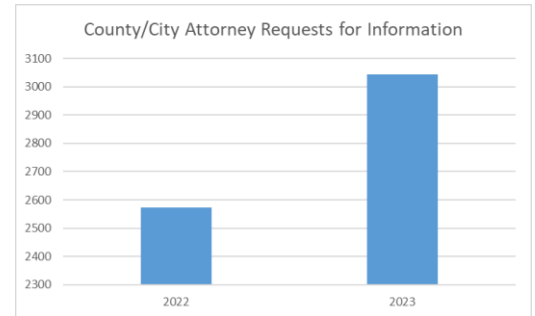
1,296 predatory offender updates.

376 handgun permit requests were received and backgrounded.

2,420 requests for information were made from the public, military, social services, Department of Corrections, and other agencies.

7,521 parking tickets were issued by CSOs and Police Volunteers. Records staff takes payment for these tickets, issues overdue and collection letters, as well as processes appeals.

647 dog licenses and 151 cat licenses were sold and issued to pet owners.



Community Service Officers

Community Service Officers consist of two full-time positions. Harvey Moos and Jay Siebels spend their workdays responding to animal complaints, vehicle unlocks, found/stolen bikes, parking complaints, parking enforcement, impound releases, found property, keeping patrol squads maintained; and delivering or transporting mail, supplies, equipment, and evidence for the department.

In 2023, the Community Service Officers responded to a combined total of 1,576 calls for service to include:

- 208 vehicle unlocks.
- 644 animal complaints; the department received 1,469 calls for service related to animal complaints.
- 179 dogs and 156 cats were impounded by the police department.
- 244 calls for release of impounded vehicles and personal property were completed by CSOs.





Crime Free Multi-Housing Program and Conduct on Registered Premises Ordinance 9-7-12

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program and the city's Conduct on Registered Premises Ordinance are key components to ensuring safe, desirable rental properties while maintaining the integrity of their surrounding neighborhoods.

In accordance with City Ordinance 9-7-12, letters were sent out to landlords/property managers notifying them of disorderly conduct on their premises. The top three offenses were noise ordinance violations, including loud parties, accounting for 70% of the letters; followed by disorderly conduct/disturbances at 13% and drug offenses at 10%.

Two Minnesota Crime Free Multi-Housing Program trainings to landlords and property managers were conducted in 2023. The spring session was held over the course of two evenings, March 7 and March 14, 2023, and had 26 attendees. The fall session was a full day course held on October 24, 2023, and had 15 attendees.

The Successful Outcomes for Tenants and Landlords (SOFTL) committee, which Community Policing Coordinator Leann Wallin serves on, hosted two virtual training for landlords, property managers, tenants, and service providers:

- FirstLink presented on the topic of "Mental Health Awareness" on April 13, 2023
- Adam Martin, founder of the F5 Project, presented on "Renting with a Record: Tenants who have a criminal history – giving a fresh start" on October 18, 2023

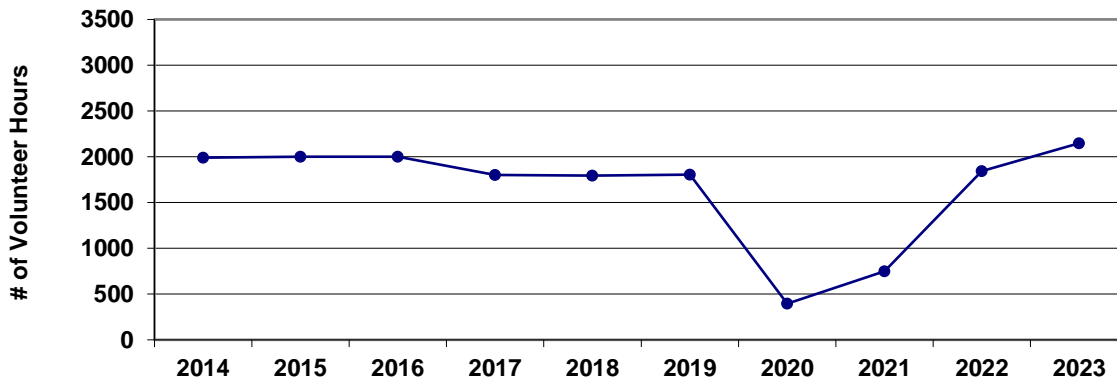
Community Policing Coordinator Leann Wallin attended the annual Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's conference in Brainerd, October 2-3, 2023, for continuing education credits in this field.



Volunteer Program

2023 Volunteers:

Ruthie Johnson	Tammy Ehresman	Dave Roe	Amber Solum
Eileen Hastad	Tiffany Footitt	Dennis Nelson	Greta Myers
Linda Laske	Myron Bowar	Braden Ashworth	Kim Schlotfeldt
Beverly Olson	Judy Hoganson	Deb Ludwig	Brett Oertli
Annette Fischer	Luis Coca, Jr.	Kylie Ashworth	Bev Henning
Susan Spooner	Janice Coca	Cheryl Sivertson	



YEAR	HOURS
2014	1,991
2015	2,002
2016	2,002
2017	1,800
2018	1,794
2019	1,804
2020	395*
2021	748*
2022	1,844
2023	2,148

**The Moorhead Police Volunteer Program was suspended effective 3/19/20 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and remained suspended through April of 2021.*

Measurable outcomes for the Police Volunteer Program are as follows:

- 4,063 tickets written in 2023, valued at \$110,325.
- 2,148 volunteer hours contributed in 2023, for a total contributed value of \$74,042 calculated using the nationally recognized hourly rate for Minnesota
- 66 vacation residence checks were requested and performed numerous times each by volunteers while the homeowner was temporarily away
- 20 house checks on registered vacant properties performed numerous times per house until they are either occupied or demolished
- 7 new volunteers joined the department, and 4 volunteers left the program
- 4 volunteers have been here for 5-9 years
- 7 volunteers have been here for 10 years or more

Special Projects in 2023:

Volunteers worked four Saturdays around the holidays selling pet licenses at local stores during the twelfth annual pet licensing campaign. Volunteers sold a total of 48 dog and cat licenses. Each week we promoted this service on our department's Facebook page.

Volunteers conducted traffic control at five parades, one marathon, one bike race, four weeks of River Arts, 4th of July fireworks, Kidsfest at Bluestem and Moorhead High School hockey games.

Volunteers served as youth mentors in the Moorhead Police Summer Youth Program, assisted with the spring and fall city auctions, Night to Unite, Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics, and rang the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.

Volunteers provided traffic and parking assistance for a groundbreaking ceremony for the city's new Natural Playground.

Two volunteers conducted child fingerprinting at Kidsfest at the Moorhead Public Library.

Several volunteers served as role players for a SWAT training and multiple times for the MPD Police Explorers Program.

Many volunteers assisted the Police Athletics and Activities League (PAL) with their events including the Pitch, Hit & Run event; Cops and Kids baseball game; Safe City Nights community outreach events at Robert Asp Elementary, Queens Park, and Romkey Park; and wrapped gifts for Shop-with-a-Cop.



Moorhead Police Volunteers

Established 1999



Ruthie Johnson
Volunteer since 1999



Eileen Hastad
Volunteer since 1999



Linda Laske
Volunteer since 2005



Bev Olson
Volunteer since 2006



Annette Fischer
Volunteer since 2009



Susan Spooner
Volunteer since 2014



Tammy Ehresman
Volunteer since 2014



Tiffany Footitt
Volunteer since 2014



Myron Bowar
Volunteer since 2018



Judy Hoganson
Volunteer since 2019



Luis Coca
Volunteer since 2019



Jan Coca
Volunteer since 2021



Dave Roe
Volunteer since 2021



Dennis Nelson
Volunteer since 2021



Braden Ashworth
Volunteer since 2022



Deb Ludwig
Volunteer since 2022



Kylie Ashworth
Volunteer since 2022



Cheryl Sivertson
Volunteer since 2022



Amber Solum
Volunteer since 2022



Greta Myers
Volunteer since 2022



Kim Schlotfeldt
Volunteer since 2023



Brett Oertli
Volunteer since 2023



Bev Henning
Volunteer since 2023

The Moorhead Police Department recognizes and greatly appreciates the time and talents donated by these individuals to our department and the City of Moorhead.

Cadet Program

The Police Cadet Program is an essential law enforcement hiring pipeline for the City of Moorhead. Since its inception in 2021, it has continued to evolve. The program emphasizes identifying nontraditional candidates and those with diverse backgrounds. The Cadet Program integrates the Pathway to Policing grant through the State of Minnesota. The program is a unique opportunity for the department to be able to identify a local candidate and provide them an opportunity to develop their skills in a public service setting, while working to hire them as a sworn officer when they obtain their required education and training.

A cadet is subject to a formal hiring process; to include an interview, background check, and employment offer from the City of Moorhead. The Moorhead Police Department requires all new Police Cadets to complete training with Community Service Officers. This equates to almost 80 hours of training that is demanding on both the cadets who are being trained and those who are trainers.

Cadets patrol parks and trails and gain experience through low-level calls for service such as animal complaints, vehicle unlocks, parking enforcement, and traffic control at vehicle accidents and parades. They work flexible evening and weekend hours allowing for assistance with both patrol and investigations staff. Through their employment, relationships are built both internally and within our community targeting a desire to further serve the citizens of Moorhead as future police officers.

Cadet applicants must be pursuing a criminal justice related degree qualifying them to be future police officer candidates. The police department works with our local colleges to match students that are in law enforcement related programs with our cadet positions.

The department currently has five cadets that attend area colleges:

Adam Kusske	North Dakota State University
Joseph Corley	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Kaivon Edwards	North Dakota State College of Science
Kiara Grady	Minnesota State Community and Technical College
Hayden Spilles	Minnesota State Community and Technical College

Moorhead Police Department Wellness Program

Dr. Aaron Suomala Folkerds serves as the Wellness Coordinator for the Moorhead Police Department. He is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Lutheran Pastor, and Professor of Counseling at Minnesota State University-Moorhead. He began his affiliation with the Moorhead Police Department as a volunteer chaplain in 2016.



2023 marks his fourth year working as the wellness coordinator/chaplain for the Moorhead Police Department. This year we completed the 30-hour peer assistance training that was approved by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. All members of the Peer Assistance Response Team (PART) completed this training.

Beginning in 2023, a wellness app was made available for officers, civilian staff, and their families in partnership with Cordico. The app provides information on career wellness, emotional/mental health wellness, family wellness, financial wellness, and a host of other important topics. The app also provides an easy way for officers to contact members of the peer assistance team.

Lieutenant J. Laddie Bata continues to implement the VALOR program training both sworn and non-sworn staff. VALOR is an initiative by the International Association for Chiefs of Police (IACP) to train officers about the power of resilience within the field of policing.

Dr. Suomala Folkerds continues to be available for officer and staff support and keeps regular office hours each week. He also helps to coordinate and lead Critical Incident Stress Debriefings (CISDs) when needed within the department. In addition, he continued to teach in the New Officer Academy about police officer wellness and responding to mental health calls in the community. Dr. Suomala Folkerds spoke at many community events throughout Northwest Minnesota on police officer wellness and support. Dr. Suomala Folkerds looks forward to the new year and continuing to grow the department's wellness program.

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division seeks to maintain social order and the quality of life through the enforcement of laws, timely response to calls for service, investigation of criminal offenses, apprehension of offenders, traffic law enforcement, and the deterrence of crime through a visible presence and collaboration with the community. The Patrol Division is often the first and only contact many citizens have with our police department. In 2023, the Patrol Division continues to experience staffing shortages due to retirement, attrition, injuries, and medical conditions.

The Patrol Division has a team of officers responsible for responding to all calls for police services 24 hours per day, located within the City of Moorhead. In addition, police officers assigned to our Patrol Division provide routine patrol to deter and detect both traffic and criminal violations of law. They also conduct criminal investigations and actively employ community-oriented policing strategies to solve community problems. Police officers assigned to the Patrol Division are also assigned to specialty positions.

Specialty Positions in Patrol:

- Field Training Officers
- Canine Handlers
- SWAT Team Members
- Special Response Team
- Use of Force Instructors
- Firearms Instructors
- Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC) Instructors
- Tactical Medical Instructors
- Bike Patrol Officers
- Law Enforcement Explorer Post Advisors

The police officers assigned to our Patrol Division currently work the following shifts:

Day Shift	8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Evening Shift	4:00 pm – 2:00 am
Midnight Shift	10:00 pm – 8:00 am

The Patrol Division shifts are designed around a “Team” concept. Each officer works with the same group of officers and sergeant for a six-month period. Each shift is divided into Team A and Team B. Generally, when one team is working, the other team is off. For the Evening and Midnight shifts, every other Tuesday and Thursday are considered all workdays where both Team A and Team B are working at the same time. For the Day shift, it’s every other Wednesday and Friday. The rotation for Team A is 5 on, 4 off, 5 on, 4 off, 6 on, 4 off, and then it repeats every 28 days. The rotation for Team B is 4 off, 5 on, 4 off, 6 on, 4 off, 5 on, and repeats every 28 days also.

All sergeants and officers assigned to the Patrol Division rotate shifts every six months. The shift periods and rotation dates are:

March 1 through August 31
September 1 through February 28

Complaint Process

The Moorhead Police Department takes allegations of misconduct on the part of its members seriously, and at the same time actively solicits feedback on any officer conduct. Anyone wishing to file a complaint is provided with a bilingual handout which outlines the complaint process and contains our complaint form. This information is also posted on www.moorheadpolice.com outlining how the complaint can be filed electronically as well. All complaints alleging misconduct by a member of the Moorhead Police Department are thoroughly investigated and recommendations are forwarded to the Chief of Police. The same system can be used to report exemplary service provided by members of the Moorhead Police Department.

Promotions

There are six sergeants assigned to the Patrol Division in the following positions:

Days Shift Sergeant = 2
Evening Shift Sergeant = 2
Midnight Shift Sergeant = 2

Staffing Departures

During 2023, we had nine officers leave the department:

Sergeant Chris Martin was hired on April 14, 2003, and resigned to work for the Clay County Sheriff's Office as their Chief Deputy on January 26, 2023.

Officer Adam Breth was hired on August 25, 2003, and resigned to work for the Clay County Sheriff's Office on December 23, 2023.

Officer Jesse Myers was hired on September 3, 2013, and resigned on May 15, 2023.

Officer Zach Johnson was hired on December 1, 2014, and resigned to work for the Clay County Sheriff's Office on December 23, 2023.

Officer Logan Waldvogel was hired on June 14, 2021, and resigned to work for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office on July 18, 2023.

Officer Jesse Collins was hired on June 14, 2021, and resigned to work for the Clay County Sheriff's Office on August 18, 2023.

Officer Luke Lindell was hired on March 1, 2021, and resigned to work for the Inver Grove Heights Police Department on September 26, 2023.

Officer Amanda Mohs was re-hired on June 1, 2022, and resigned to work for the North Dakota State Patrol on November 21, 2023.

Lieutenant Brad Penas was hired on June 6, 1990, and retired on April 28, 2023.

Field Training Unit

Our department maintains a Field Training Unit as part of our Patrol Division. It is the responsibility of this unit to partner with the Investigative Division to conduct pre-employment background investigations on police officer candidates and to provide the initial training to our new police officers.

Mission Statement: The Moorhead Police Department, in keeping with community expectations for professional police service, has established the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program. The mission of the Moorhead Police Department Field Training Officer Program is to prepare Officers in Training (OITs) to perform the essential duties of a police officer and to enhance the professionalism of patrol work through continuous quality improvement.

The year 2023, was a very active training year for the Moorhead Police Department, which has become normal with the police staffing crisis in our country. During 2023, we hired seven officers.

Hired applications in 2023 were:

Officer Bailley Wallace

Officer James Eggert

Officer Adam Koep

Officer Anthony St. Clair

Officer Carter Dubord – resigned before completing training.

Officer Michael McCombs – resigned before completing training.

Officer Chase Reed – resigned before completing training.

Pre-Employment

Applicants for full-time peace officer positions in Minnesota (MN) must be eligible for licensing as a peace officer before they can be hired. Eligible for licensing in Minnesota means that the person has; completed a MN POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) Board approved education program, passed a MN law enforcement skills training program, and passed a written test administered by the MN POST Board. The education programs are either two- or four-year programs and they are available at numerous colleges located throughout Minnesota.

The Moorhead Police Department extensively recruits new police officer candidates by attending various law enforcement career fairs held throughout the state. We actively try to recruit nontraditional police officer applicants of various backgrounds.

The Moorhead Police Department implement a lateral officer hiring process in 2023. This allows the department to hire an eligible applicant anytime during the year.

Potential Candidates

Each finalist for employment as a Moorhead Police Officer is subject to a thorough pre-employment background investigation, which is supervised by Lt. Mike Detloff. Our Investigators and/or Field Training Officers (FTOs) spend approximately 50 hours conducting each background investigation. Much of this investigation is done in person and thus it requires travel to many

locations. At the conclusion of this investigation a report is completed. Our Deputy Chief and Chief then review these reports and determine if the candidate passed the investigation.

Once a candidate passes our pre-employment background investigation, they must pass a medical examination and a comprehensive psychological examination. Once a new officer is hired, we do everything we can to help that officer successfully complete their field training.

New Hire – Probationary Officer

The hiring, equipping, and training of a new police officer is very expensive. From the start of the hiring process through when officers complete their training, and are working on their own, the department incurs a significant monetary and resource expenditure to hire and train new employees.

Uniforms and equipment are provided for a new officer and totals around \$10,000 per officer. Our department tries very hard to retain our officers because of the investment we have placed in hiring, equipping, and training them.

New Officer Academy

The Field Training Program starts with an in-house academy in which the new hires will receive classroom training on department expectations, computers, report writing, crime scene processing, patrol procedures, domestic abuse investigations, standardized field testing (DUI), emergency vehicle operations, ARMER radio, peer advisory crisis teams and the Moorhead Chaplains Program. The New Officer Academy includes intense training and qualifications in handgun, patrol rifle, Taser, and defensive tactics. The New Officer Academy finishes with scenario-based training to include traffic stops, building searches, felony stops and force on force scenarios.

One purpose of our academy is to train our new officers in the skills that are required before they start working in uniform as a Moorhead Police Officer. Many of these skills are use of force related. Our academy also provides an introduction to many of the skills that they will need to master before they graduate from our formal Field Training Program. These skills include topics like report writing, conflict resolution, street level investigations and learning our various computer systems. Lateral applicants participate in an expedited in-house academy prior to starting field training.

Uniformed Field Training

After New Officer Academy, new police officers are assigned to our formal Field Training Program. We use the Field Training Associates method of field training, which is a coach-based theory. This training program is generally fourteen work weeks in length. It can be modified to be slightly shorter, or longer, in length to meet the training needs of individual new police officers. During this program new police officers are always working with a Field Training Officer (FTO). They are assigned to each officer for generally four work weeks. Our new police officers' performance is evaluated daily. The purpose of this evaluation is to provide constructive feedback to increase the new officer's learning. Our Field Training Program also includes a comprehensive

training manual. Each week our new officers are taught the topics that are required for them to succeed as a Moorhead Police Officer.

Field Training Officers

Our Field Training Officers are selected by our Chief of Police from the members of our Patrol Division. When we have an opening for a Field Training Officer, we post the opening, and any interested officers apply for this assignment. They are appointed by the Chief of Police after he considers input from their supervisors, our existing Field Training Officers, and our Community Policing Coordinator. New Field Training Officers attend a 24-hour long training course which certifies them as Field Training Officers.

Field Training Officers are the backbone to the success of the training program. They are historically strong performers and leaders within the Patrol Division. They help instill strong organizational culture to new hires.

The department Field Training Officers are:

Officer Jonathan Hanson #339

Officer Cuyler Johnson #348

Officer Anthony Larson #303

Officer Rob Reller #311

Officer Ben Bauer #317

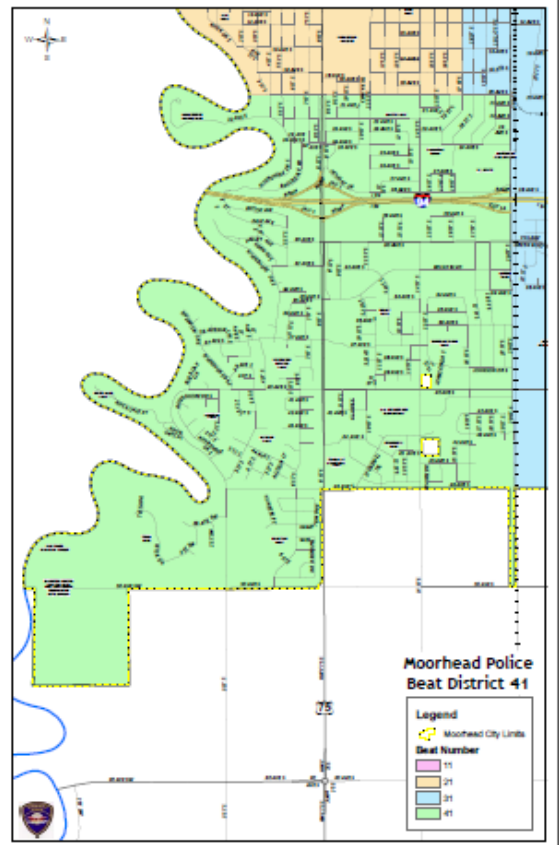
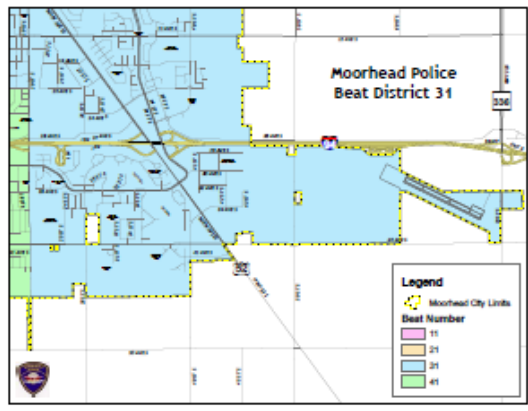
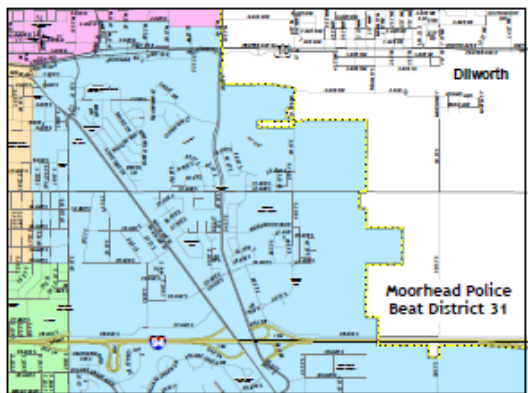
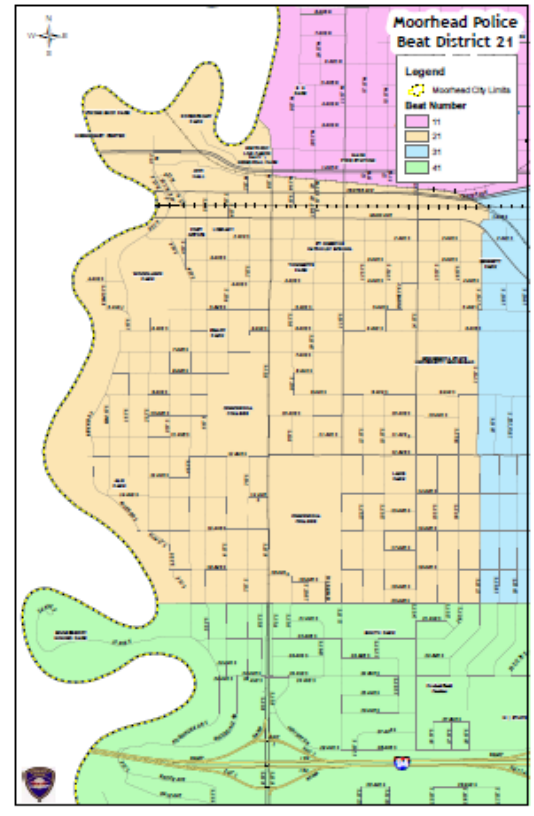
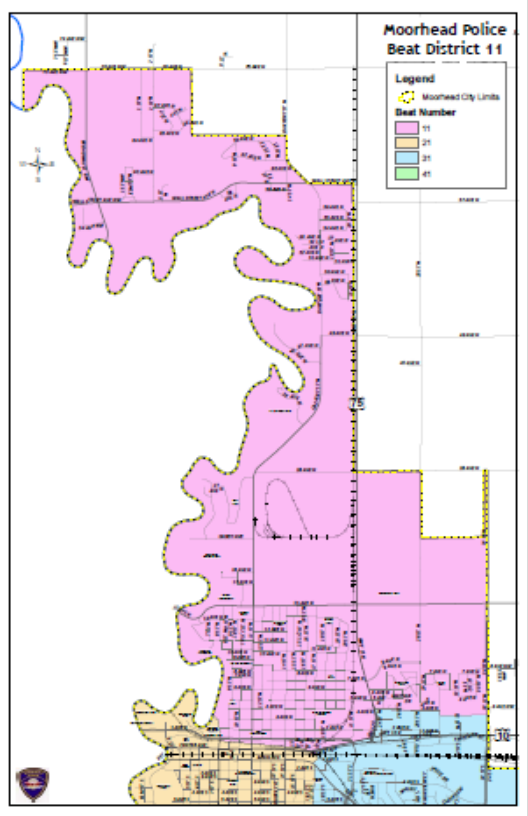
Officer Kaden Oldham #305

Officer Ethan Halvorson #336

Our Field Training Unit is supervised by Captain Deric Swenson, Sergeant Nick Leinen and Sergeant Joe Brannan.

Community Policing

Moorhead Police Officers are committed to building and maintaining problem solving partnerships within the community. Our officers are committed to providing police services that are fair, impartial, and professional. Our Patrol Division is dedicated to Moorhead Police Department's philosophy of community-oriented policing. As part of this philosophy, officers are assigned to work permanent areas of the community, which are referred to as "Beats". A patrol sergeant is assigned to each of these Beats as well to identify and address issues in these areas with their team members from all the shifts. By focusing on problem areas, they were able to recognize solutions to reduce repeat calls in the longer term. The City of Moorhead is divided into four specific Beats. Our Beats are displayed below:



Supervisors and Patrol Officers Assigned to the Patrol Division (End of Year 2023):

Supervisors:

Lieutenant John “Laddie” Bata
Sergeant Scott Kostohryz
Sergeant Nick Schultz
Sergeant Clint Stephenson
Sergeant Robb Matheson
Sergeant Michelle Voeltz
Sergeant Nick Leinen

Police Officers Assigned to the Patrol Division:

Officer Shawn Griego	Officer Rob Reller
Officer Matt Lambert	Officer Kaden Oldham
Officer Ethan Halvorson	Officer Jonathan Hanson
Officer Ben Bauer	Officer Sydne Mark
Officer Matt Hanson	Officer Carter DuBord (Training)
Officer Joe Secord	Officer AJ St. Clair
Officer Brett Musich (K9)	Officer Cuyler Johnson
Officer Beth Meier	Officer Anthony Larson
Officer Kyle Huewe	Officer Michaela Bolgrean
Officer Jack Anderson	Officer Alli Garding
Officer Muhamad Abdi	Officer Eric Moore
Officer Mike McCombs (Training)	Officer Nathan Wambach
Officer Mackenzie Schultz	Officer Chase Reed (Training)
Officer Adam Koep	Officer Bailey Wallace
Officer James Eggert	Officer Jessica Horn (SRO)
Officer Brandon Heide (SRO)	Officer Andy Werk (SRO)

Crime Analysis

Cameron Jenson has served as the Moorhead Police Department's Crime Analyst since March 2021. In his position, which was new for the department, Jenson provides reports, analysis, and investigative support to the department's administration, detectives, and patrol officers. He combines information gathered from a variety of sources with data collected by the department to identify crime patterns and trends occurring in the community.



During 2023, the Moorhead Police Department launched a new site called the LexisNexis Community Crime Map which is a public mapping website to allow the public to view the department's call for service data. Found at www.CommunityCrimeMap.com, the site is updated once per day and can be filtered by date and crime type. For data privacy reasons, the address of each incident is rounded to the nearest block and the corresponding icon is randomly offset on the map. Additionally, certain sensitive call types will not be displayed.

Another change in 2023, was the department's new policy for reporting delayed shoplifting incidents which can now be reported online for instances where the reporting is delayed by 30 minutes from the time of the theft, the amount stolen is under \$500, and there is no known information about the suspect to help identify them. Once the online report is received, if the suspect is not immediately known the photos are distributed within the department and to several other regional law enforcement agencies. Upon reception of a lead or positive identification, the report is then provided to an officer with supporting documentation to review for possible charges. This new process helps to reduce the call load for our busy Patrol Division while continuing to efficiently identify and hold shoplifters accountable.

The Moorhead Police Department continued its data analyst intern position with the hire of Connor Ackerson at the beginning of the year. Ackerson, a mathematics student at North Dakota State University, has assisted with a variety of analysis projects on topics such as drug overdoses, vehicle pursuits, alarm ordinance violation tracking, and regular crime mapping and statistical reports. The analyst internship program provides value to the department by increasing its analytical capabilities and allows the intern to utilize their skills and education in an exciting field and possibly consider it as a career path.

Moorhead Police Department-Crime Statistics (NIBRS)

Group A Offenses			
Crimes Against Persons - UCR Offense	2021	2022	2023
Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter	2	1	2
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	1
Kidnapping/Abduction	4	6	7
Rape	23	26	19
Sodomy	3	1	2
Sexual Assault with An Object	2	0	0
Fondling	31	27	18
Aggravated Assault	183	142	201
Simple Assault	252	199	240
Intimidation	64	48	38
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0
Subtotal - Crimes Against Persons	564	450	528

	2021	2022	2023
Drug/Narcotic Violations	171	129	82
Drug Equipment Violations	50	40	11
Pornography/Obscene Material	16	15	16
Betting/Wagering	0	0	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0	0	0
Gambling Equipment Violation	0	0	0
Sports Tampering	0	0	0
Prostitution	1	0	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0
Purchasing Prostitution	0	0	0
Weapon Law Violations	37	45	27
	2	1	1
Subtotal - Crimes Against Society	277	230	137
Total Group A Offenses	2991	2383	2040

Crimes Against Property - UCR Offense	2021	2022	2023
Robbery	21	16	8
Arson	8	9	10
Extortion/Blackmail	0	3	1
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	277	194	129
Pocket-picking	6	0	0
Purse-snatching	3	2	0
Shoplifting	196	190	218
Theft From Building	42	16	2
Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	2	0	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	233	137	88
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	82	36	18
All Other Larceny	363	279	248
Motor Vehicle Theft	158	172	123
Counterfeiting/Forgery	48	43	35
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	67	35	60
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	47	40	44
Impersonation	77	76	62
Welfare Fraud	2	0	0
Wire Fraud	10	2	0
Identity Theft	12	6	7
Hacking/Computer Invasion	0	0	0
Embezzlement	2	1	1
Stolen Property Offenses	107	122	60
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	387	324	261
Bribery	0	0	0
Subtotal - Crimes Against Property	2150	1703	1375

Group B Arrests			
UCR Offense	2021	2022	2023
Bad Checks (Decommissioned January 2022)	0	0	0
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	71	66	62
Driving Under the Influence	99	103	83
Drunkenness (Decommissioned January 2022)	6	0	0
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	1	2	3
Liquor Law Violations	7	6	20
Peeping Tom (Decommissioned January 2022)	0	0	0
Runaway	0	0	0
Trespass of Real Property	41	39	38
All Other Offenses	146	165	129

In 2021, Minnesota law enforcement agencies switched to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) which was implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected. NIBRS provides more robust incident-level data by capturing separate offenses within the same incident as well as other details. The previous UCR Summary Reporting System (SRS) used a hierarchy rule which only counted the most serious offense for crime incidents where multiple offenses occur.

The Moorhead Police Department's 2021 NIBRS data cannot be compared to previous years of Summary Reporting System data due to the disparate methods of reporting including counting offenses and the hierarchy rule. Moorhead Police Department's crime data is also available on the MN BCA's online interactive Crime Data Explorer which can be found at <https://cde.state.mn.us/>

K9 Unit

In 2023, our K9 Unit has been active with training and deployments. Officer Johnson and Officer Musich collectively deployed Kash and Zeke a total of 110 times in 2023.

Annually, our K9 teams must show continued proficiency in narcotic detection and patrol work. Each team must obtain at least 16 hours of training each month and certify annually with the National Police Canine Association (NPCA). Together, both teams logged over 300 additional hours of training on top of their assigned patrol shifts. Kash and Zeke are accredited in and will alert the presence of several narcotics including Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Heroin. They are also skilled in building searches, area searches, tracking, article searches, and physical apprehensions.

In the police world, K9s are an unmatched asset to the department and offer skills that cannot be compared to the human officers working the street. Canine noses are immeasurably powerful and aid in detecting illegal narcotics and locating articles holding human scent. The simple presence of a K9 at a scene can assist in de-escalating situations where violent offenders are willing to fight with human officers; however, do not want to have contact with police canines.

In addition to the formal police deployments Kash and Zeke continually show how big of an asset they are to the Moorhead Police Department through formal and informal community demonstrations.

2023 was a year that saw some major changes and tragedy for the K9 program. In December of 2023, Officer Johnson resigned from the Moorhead Police Department. Officer Johnson's new department purchased K9 Kash with those proceeds going back into our K9 program as we look towards a future team. December also saw the sudden loss of K9 Zeke due to an acute medical condition.



CASH



ZEKE

Significant Deployments from 2023:

On February 11, 2023, Officer Musich and K9 Zeke responded to assist with locating a domestic assault suspect that had fled on foot through a residential neighborhood. Officer Musich deployed Zeke on a track that led through multiple residential yards. During the track, a cover officer visibly located the suspect hiding under a children's playset in a fenced in backyard. Officer Musich and Zeke entered the backyard and began giving the suspect a K9 announcement with commands to surrender. For several minutes the male refused to exit from his position where most of his body was concealed and not visible to officers. As Zeke was about to be deployed up to the suspect from our position of cover, the male exited and surrendered without further incident. It is likely that officers would have needed to move in without cover and risk their safety removing the suspect from his concealed location if it weren't for the use of Zeke and his ability to resolve the situation due to his presence.

On June 29, 2023, Officer Johnson and K9 Kash were requested by the Metro Street Crimes Unit to assist with locating and arresting a male with a felony level assault warrant. As officers tried to get the male to exit the apartment out the door where Officer Johnson and Kash were located, the male tried to flee out an open window. Officer Johnson and Kash exited the building and were able to contain the suspect in the unit while officers were able to make entry and arrest the male without further incident. The male likely would have fled if it weren't for the presence of Kash that led to a peaceful resolution.

On July 19, 2023, Officer Musich responded to a motor vehicle crash in rural Moorhead. While assisting with the crash, one of the drivers advised that his cell phone had been lost outside of the vehicle due to the severe impact of the crash. The cell phone owner and others attempted to search the ditches and native grass areas but were unable to find the phone. Approximately one hour later, Officer Musich returned and deployed Zeke for an article search in attempt to locate the phone. Within minutes, Zeke located the phone in the long grass area of the ditch. The phone was later returned to the owner, who was very thankful for Zeke's help.

On August 15, 2023, Officer Johnson responded to a theft in progress at Menards. It was reported that the suspect fled on foot towards the interstate with the stolen property in a backpack. Officers located two suspects a significant distance from the store, but the property had been discarded. Officer Johnson deployed Kash to the last known area of the suspects where he observed Kash pull into the tall grass and cat tails. Kash located the backpack that contained most of the stolen items inside, which were then returned to Menards.

On October 29, 2023, Fargo Police Officers requested the assistance of Officer Musich and K9 Zeke with a motor vehicle sniff on a traffic stop in the city of Fargo. Officer Musich deployed K9 Zeke around the exterior of the vehicle for a search. Officer Musich noted several changes in behavior from Zeke, indicating the presence of illegal narcotics inside of the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle, officers located 1,085 fentanyl pills, 46.2 grams of fentanyl powder and \$3,588 in U.S. Currency that was seized because of the investigation.

K9 Kash and K9 Zeke completed several public demonstrations throughout the year. Both Kash and Zeke visited the Summer Youth Program and Change Starts with YOUth summer camp. They

were also active on Night to Unite, Safe City Nights, and for the Moorhead Police Department's Citizens Police Academy. Public demonstrations are invaluable and allow the K9 teams to interact with the public and explain the capabilities of their unique role they have in law enforcement.

Significant statistics from 2023:

Fentanyl: 1,085 pills
Fentanyl: 46.20 grams in powder form
U.S. Currency: \$3,588.00
Apprehensions: 15

Officer Musich was the recipient of the National Police Canine Association's patrol case of the year for 2022. In August 2023, he traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to receive that award. Police Chief Shannon Monroe also attended the event to support the significant recognition the department's K9 program received.



Investigative Division

The division is made up of a Division Commander, Investigative Sergeant, Support Services Supervisor, and nine full-time Investigators. Two investigators are assigned to General, two in Juvenile, four in Narcotics, and one to the Metro Street Crimes Unit. General Investigators investigate cases such as crimes against persons (adult), property crimes, and computer forensics investigations. Juvenile Investigators investigate crimes against children such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Narcotics Investigators investigate local drug trafficking cases and historical drug conspiracy cases. Our investigator assigned to the Metro Street Crimes Unit focuses on gang related activity, fugitive apprehension, and high crime areas.

In January, Detective Nick Schultz was promoted to a Patrol Sergeant, leaving his General Investigator position open. In March, School Resource Officer Jordan Werk was selected as the new General Investigator and was reassigned to the Investigative Division.

Lieutenant Brad Penas retired from law enforcement on April 28, 2023, after 33 years of service and dedication to keeping this community safe. He filled a number of roles during his time with the Moorhead Police Department as a Field Training Officer, SWAT Team Sniper, and the Lieutenant of Investigations the last 17 years where he was a member of the Child Abduction and Response Team (CART) and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). Lieutenant Mike Detloff was moved from the Patrol Division to take over the supervision of the Investigations Division.

In 2023, we participated in three Task Forces. Narcotics Investigator Jeff Larson was attached to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Drug Task Force in Fargo, ND. We are members of

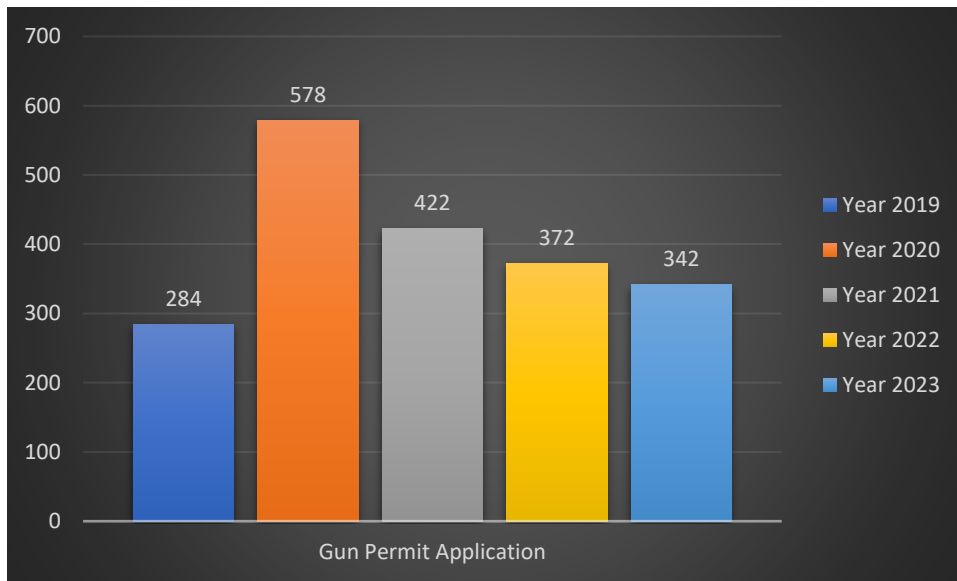
the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force (ICAC) assisting us with child pornography investigations. Last year, our investigators worked on 18 cyber tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Kids. Our Metro Street Crimes Investigator, Nick Wiedenmeyer, is also part of the U.S. Marshals Service North Star Fugitive Task Force. The participation in these Task Forces allows for additional funding to offset the cost associated with overtime, training, equipment, and fuel. This funding comes from grants and federal agencies.

The Investigative Division maintains local predatory offender files by tracking and ensuring compliance of approximately 185 offenders in the City of Moorhead. The Moorhead Police Department had 1,235 offender contacts in 2023. These included 10 investigations into Failure to Register cases, 15 initial/new registrations, 303 changes of information, 536 homeless weekly check-ins, and 420 quarterly compliance checks.

Offenders are assessed a risk level, by the Department of Corrections, prior to their end of confinement if they were incarcerated in a state prison. Those that were not confined in state prison are given an unassigned risk level. Information on Level I and Unassigned offenders can be shared with other law enforcement agencies and the offender's crime victims/witnesses. Level II offender information may also be disclosed to law enforcement agencies as well as groups the offender is likely to encounter such as educational institutions and childcare establishments. Risk Level III is the highest level assigned and can also be disclosed to other members of the community. The Moorhead Police Department provides notification on Level III offenders through the media, community meetings, and the City of Moorhead website. There were approximately 7 Level III offenders residing in Moorhead at various times in 2023.

The division is also responsible for conducting background investigations for most city licenses and permits including liquor, pawn, massage, tobacco sales, secondhand dealers, and used car dealers. We also conduct background checks and issue permits for citizens wishing to purchase handguns and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons. For several years we saw the numbers somewhat fluctuate but saw a large increase in 2020 when we processed 580 applications. In 2023, we processed 343 applications showing a continued reduction in 2021 through 2023. This was more consistent with the number of applications we processed prior to 2020.

Handgun and Semiautomatic Military-Style Assault Weapon Permits



High Profile Case Activity

On March 10, 2023, officers were sent to an apartment building in the 3300 block of 12th St. S. for a disturbance. When they made contact, Douglas Swenson appeared at the door, and said he killed someone inside. Officers located his half-brother, Dustin Momerak, deceased inside the apartment due to multiple sharp and blunt force injuries. Swenson is awaiting trial on this case.

On April 23, 2023, officers were sent to the 1800 block of 1st Ave. N. on a welfare check on a male that had not been heard from in a week. Terry Klevgaard was found deceased in his apartment and the investigation began. We located and arrested the suspect, Robert Icanberry, in Fremont, California. He is currently awaiting trial on this case.

On June 23, 2023, officers were sent to the Romkey Park area in the 1100 block of 19th St. S. Officers found Zain Mezher, deceased with a gunshot wound to the head. The investigation revealed that several juveniles were playing with the stolen gun the past week and one pulled the trigger believing the gun was empty. The case was forwarded to the Clay County Attorney's Office who declined to prosecute.

Other Significant Investigations

On January 20, 2023, Kasondra Perez entered a Moorhead apartment and confronted a female whom she believed was having an affair with her girlfriend. Perez sprayed lighter fluid on three people in that apartment and then tried to light them on fire. Perez then got into a knife fight in the apartment and stabbed a female in the face. Perez left the apartment and went to Fargo. She found her girlfriend and assaulted her. She forcibly kidnapped her and brought her to an apartment

in Moorhead. She physically and sexually assaulted her girlfriend there. The girlfriend was able to escape the Moorhead apartment by climbing out of a window while naked. Perez was arrested at the Moorhead apartment. She plead guilty to 1st Degree Arson and 1st Degree Assault and was sentenced to 160 months in prison.

On March 20, 2023, a 37-year-old male was at his girlfriend's apartment when Chance Thibert, forced his way in and stabbed him in the left bicep. Thibert fled from the scene but was later located and arrested in Fargo. He was charged with Attempted Murder and Burglary. He plead guilty and was sentenced to 103 months.

On April 7, 2023, a 12-year-old male was struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Hwy 10 and 21st St. He had significant injuries due to this accident and a long road to recovery. We were able to identify the suspect and locate the places she had consumed alcohol. She was arrested and ended up pleading guilty.

On September 9, 2023, officers were sent to an assault where the suspect started the house on fire in the 800 block of 7th Ave. S. The suspect, Sean Ahrenholtz, had climbed onto the roof and was refusing to come down while the house was burning. A significant amount of time and resources were devoted to safely resolve this incident, but significant damage occurred to the residence. He has plead guilty to the Arson. This same individual was the suspect in a previous Arson on April 9, 2023, where paperwork was left in the oven of his apartment that caught fire.

On October 13, 2023, officers were sent to the area of 20th St. S. and 20th Ave. S. on a report of a shooting. Once they arrived, they located the victim with a gunshot wound to the leg. We were able to locate evidence in the 1900 block of 20th Ave. S. and contacted the suspect, Brandon Elliot, as he returned to his residence. A search warrant was conducted, and he was arrested. He is awaiting trial.

On October 26, 2023, officers were sent to the area of the 1200 block of 10th St. S. for a report of a kidnapping where the victim had escaped. During the investigation we learned Jamie White suspected the victim of stealing some drugs from him and he was trying to recover these missing narcotics. When she didn't admit to it, he had some other females go with her to the bathroom and strip search her. She was tied up in the basement because he needed to go back to work. We were able to locate him, and he was taken into custody with the assistance of the Red River Valley SWAT Team without incident. He provided a confession and is awaiting trial for these charges.

Narcotics

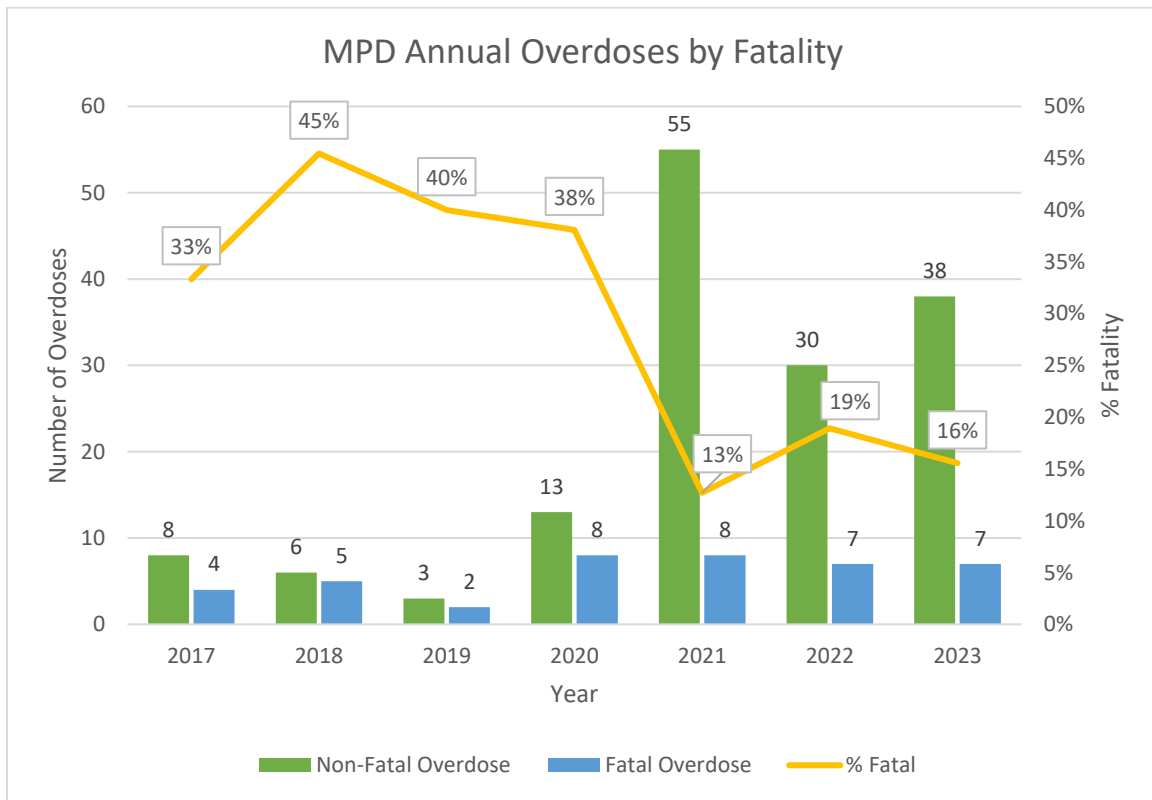
Grant funding allows us to collaborate with the local DEA Drug Task Force. This relationship allows investigators to start a case with a local user and follow them all the way up to the source of supply that may be established in another state. This type of investigation will often result in federal charges through the United States Attorney's Office and prosecution of drug traffickers responsible for bringing large quantities of narcotics to the Red River Valley. Cases such as these take an enormous amount of time and resources from local agencies; however, the benefit derived from their involvement has great payback as the sources of supply were arrested and convicted as

well as the entire distribution network. The distribution network is primarily made up of local drug dealers, which have a daily impact on the standard of living in our community. The Moorhead Police Department had one of our Narcotics Investigators assigned to this Task Force.

The abuse of prescription medication led to the implementation of a safe and secure prescription medication drop off location at the Moorhead Police Department several years ago. This program along with our partnership with the DEA, through National Take Back events, removed approximately 626 pounds of medications that were incinerated in 2023.

Many of our narcotic investigations start with a tip from a citizen who is concerned about an increase in traffic at a residence where people stop by for short periods of time and leave right away. Our detectives check into each of these to determine if more information can be gathered and run with what they have. The public plays an important role in keeping our city safe and we need them as one of our vital partners.

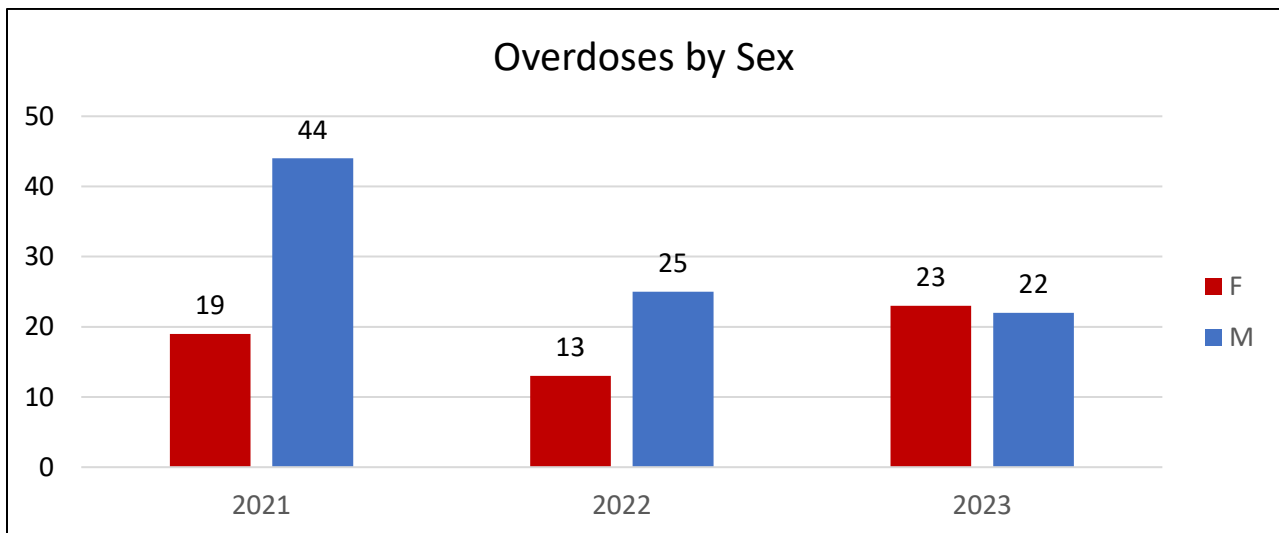
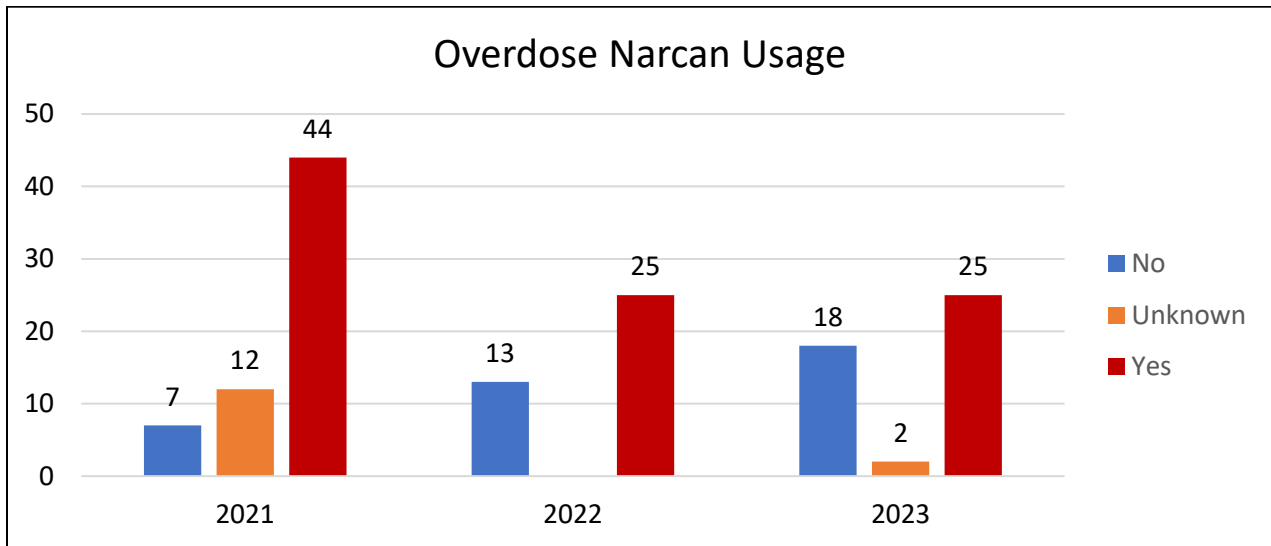
2023 Overdose Statistics

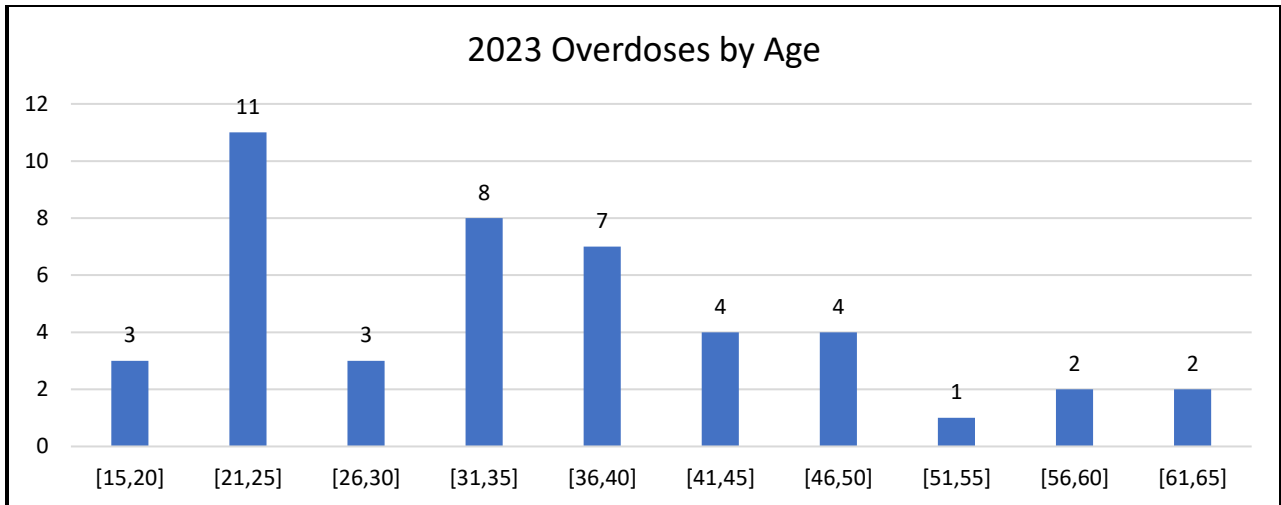


The orange line represents the percentage of fatal overdoses, the green bars correspond to the total number of non-fatal overdoses, and the blue bars represent the total number of fatal overdoses for that year. (Disclaimer: The data only reflects overdoses reported to the Moorhead Police Department. It is estimated that a portion of non-fatal overdoses go unreported)

2023 Summary

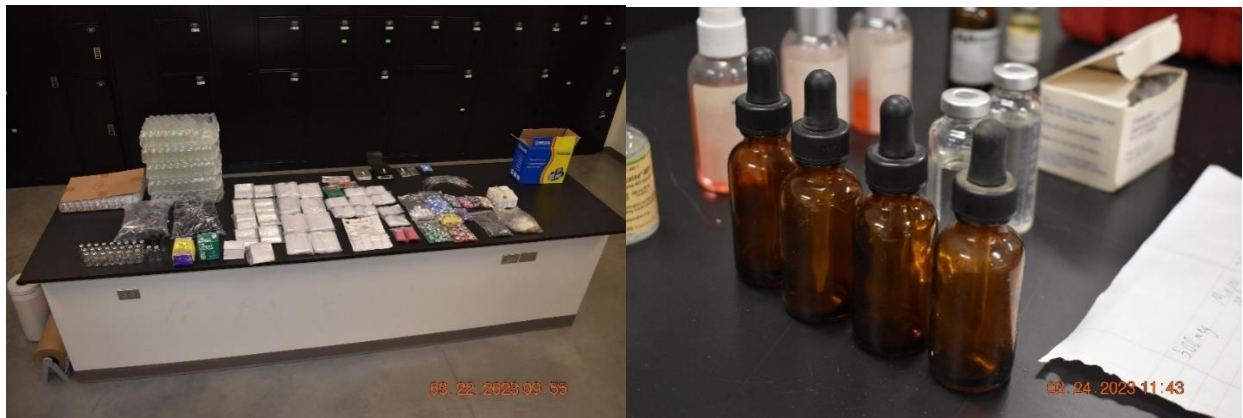
- There were 22% more reported overdoses in 2023 compared to 2022 (2023: 45, 2022: 37).
- Non-fatal overdoses increased by 27% from 2022 to 2023, and fatal overdoses were the same.
- Naloxone was reportedly used in 83% of known non-fatal overdoses in 2023. It was used in 68% of all overdoses in 2023.
- 51% of reported overdoses in 2023 were attributed to M30/fentanyl use.
- Fentanyl with another drug was attributed to be the cause of death in 3 out of 7 cases (43%).
- 51% of total overdoses were female
- In 2023, the most common age range to overdose was 21-25.





Local Narcotics Investigations

A multi-year drug investigation culminated in March 2023, with the largest seizure of anabolic steroids in Moorhead's history, leading to the arrest of Moorhead resident, Corey Berwick. Authorities also confiscated 15 firearms, and nearly \$19,000 U.S. Currency in the operation. Berwick was charged by the Clay County Attorney's Office with felony drug related crimes.



After a multi-month investigation, Zachary Roberson and Mystic Olmstead were arrested for distributing fentanyl pills in Fargo/Moorhead. Moorhead Police, in collaboration with the Cass County Drug Task Force, seized over 1,800 fentanyl pills, \$2,722 U.S. Currency, and two vehicles. Parties were charged by the Clay County Attorney's Office with Felony Aggravated 1st Degree Controlled Substance, Conspiracy, and Child Endangerment.

In October, Jamie White and two accomplices identified as April Lundgren and Sheridan Carlson were arrested after a woman escaped from the basement of White's Moorhead home and contacted police, reporting she had been bound and restrained there over a drug debt. The investigation led to White's arrest and the seizure of nearly a pound of a fentanyl and xylazine mixture. Xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer not approved for human use, has been linked to an increasing

number of overdose deaths nationwide in the evolving drug addiction and overdose crisis. This was Moorhead's first seizure of xylazine. The case's drug-related aspects were taken over by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Minnesota, where White was later charged with federal drug related crimes. The Clay County Attorney's Office pursued charges relating to this investigation of Felony Kidnapping, Felony 2nd Degree Assault, Felony Threats of Violence, Felony Simple Robbery, and Felon in Possession of Ammunition.



Trevor Gabrick, an emerging rap artist from Minnesota known as "2wo Timez" was identified as a major supplier of fentanyl across Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa, and South Dakota. Following a multi-month investigation, Gabrick was arrested in Moorhead, leading to the seizure of nearly 4,000 fentanyl pills, \$6,000 U.S. Currency, and two firearms. The operation involved coordination with agencies from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Gabrick was charged with Felony Aggravated 1st Degree Controlled Substance crimes in Clay County, MN.

In June, Moorhead resident, Jake Henrichs, was arrested following a multi-year investigation into his efforts to distribute methamphetamine in Fargo/Moorhead. Authorities seized \$54,163 U.S. Currency, along with cocaine, methamphetamine, and a motor vehicle during the investigation. Henrichs was charged with Felony 1st Degree Controlled Substance, Felony 3rd Degree Controlled Substance, and Possession of Burglary or Theft Tools in Clay County, MN.



In August, Patrick Nelson-Lauderdale was arrested after a search warrant at his Moorhead home, following several controlled purchases conducted from him in Fargo and Moorhead. Authorities seized 178 fentanyl pills, nearly \$2,000 U.S. Currency, and two firearms during the investigation. Nelson-Lauderdale was charged with Felony 1st Degree Controlled Substance, Felony 2nd Degree Controlled Substance, and Felony 3rd Degree Controlled Substance crimes in Clay County, MN.

Drug Seizures

Seizures	2020	2021	2022	2023
M30 Fentanyl Pills	0	422	9011	7501
Meth (grams)	7682	31,771	5859	1155
Heroin (grams)	209	145	32	0
U.S. Currency	\$693,372.00	\$151,036.00	\$278,648.00	\$86,507.00

Juvenile

We have two Juvenile Investigators that primarily work physical/sexual abuse and neglect cases. These investigators receive specialized training on child forensic interviewing techniques. This training is specific to this position so investigators working as a team with social services, medical staff, and counseling services, can effectively receive non-leading information from child victims for court purposes and limit redundancy that leads to further exposing the victim to trauma. This collaboration works together as a team with members of the Red River Children’s Advocacy Center to accomplish these efforts. The center was created to help accommodate victims and their families through the process.

Division supervisors and our Juvenile/General Investigators are also members of the Red River Child Abduction Response Team (CART). A Child Abduction Response Team is a group of individuals from various local, state, and federal agencies who are trained and prepared to respond to a missing/endangered or abducted child. CART pulls together resources to aid in the search and rescue effort and to assist the agency of jurisdiction in its investigation. Our team is certified through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. To maintain certification our team participates in tabletop and mock exercises to be prepared in case of a real event.

Juvenile Investigations

In February 2023, Detective Saarinen interviewed a 13-year-old female victim at the Red River Children’s Advocacy Center (RRCAC) after she disclosed her father had sexually assaulted her when she was 7 years old. Charges were requested.

In February 2023, a 17-year-old female disclosed she had been sexually assaulted by her grandfather, Gregory Moll, for years. He confessed to fondling the victim and was convicted of 2nd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct and is required to register as a predatory offender.

In March of 2023, Detective Saarinen learned a 13-year-old female was sending sexual images and videos to an adult male online. Search Warrants and Subpoenas identified the suspect as Joel Silverman, living in Garland, Texas. Authorities in Texas completed a search warrant of his residence and discovered additional child sex assault materials on his devices. He was arrested and charged in Texas.

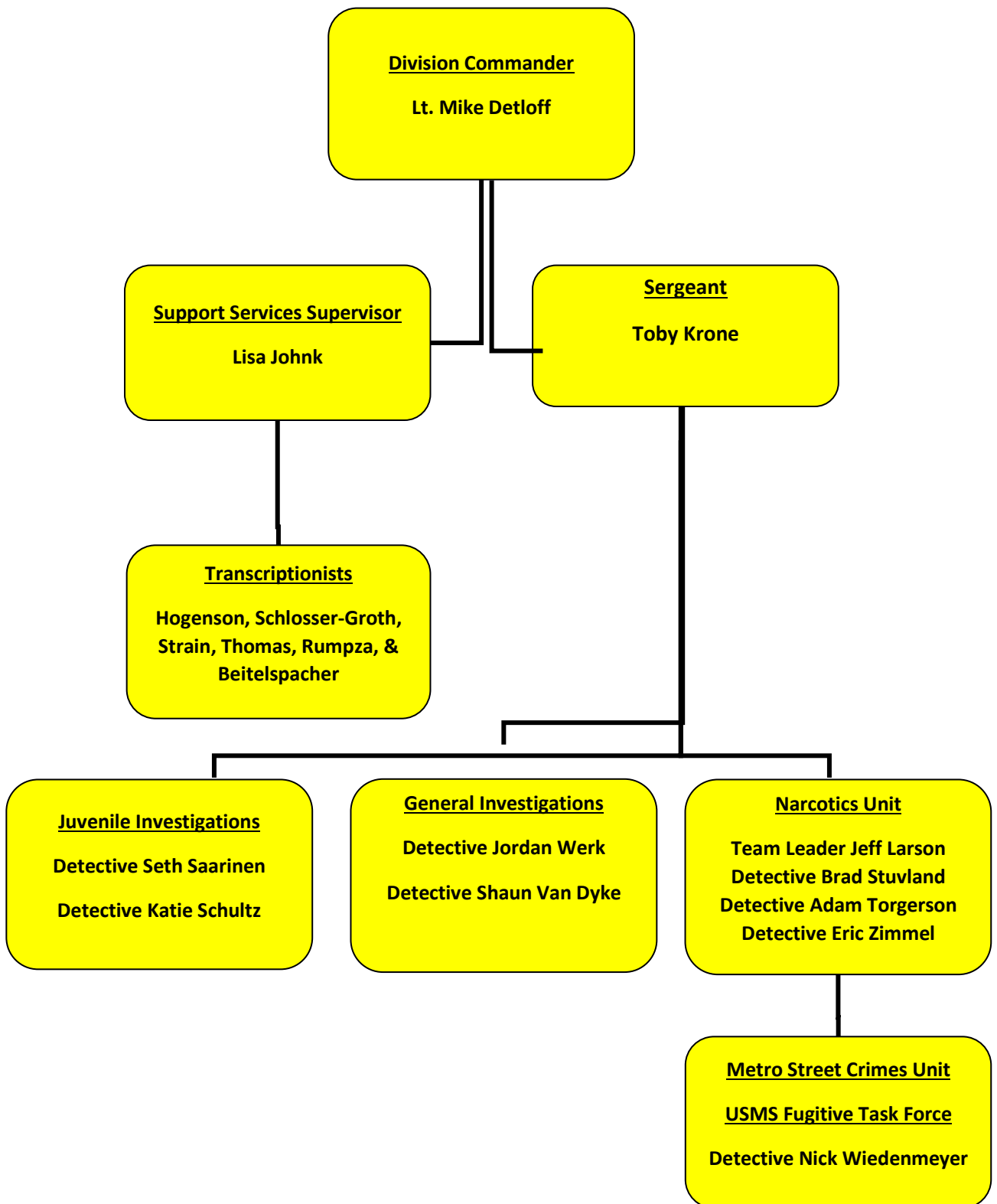
Juvenile Victims

Case Types	2020	2021	2022	2023
Criminal Sexual Assault	66	76	72	72
Physical Abuse/Neglect	199	217	176	128

Division Statistics

CASE TYPE NAME	TOTAL
ADMIN	2
ARSON	7
ASSAULT	79
ASSIST	87
BURGLARY	19
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIALS	40
CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT	140
DEATH	46
HOMICIDE	3
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	3
KIDNAPPING	1
MISSING PERSON	7
NARCOTICS	85
NEGLECT	162
PERMITS	124
ROBBERY	5
THEFT	50
SCREENED OUT BY SOCIAL SERVICES	751
OTHER ACTIVITY	33
VULNERABLE ADULT	52
TOTAL	1696

Moorhead Police Department Investigative Division



Property and Evidence Unit

The Moorhead Police Department Property Unit is an entity of our agency that very few people have the opportunity to see. The Property Unit is charged with the safekeeping of all property obtained through criminal investigations, as well as found or confiscated property. It is the policy of this department to ensure that property in its custody is properly secured, packaged, labeled and stored, is readily retrievable, and that any changes in its custody are properly and fully documented.

The property and evidence room are supervised by Sergeant Robb Matheson. Laura Hilgers is the department's main Evidence Technician. All evidence technicians and evidence room supervisors have been trained through the International Association of Property & Evidence (IAPE) and are current members in this organization.

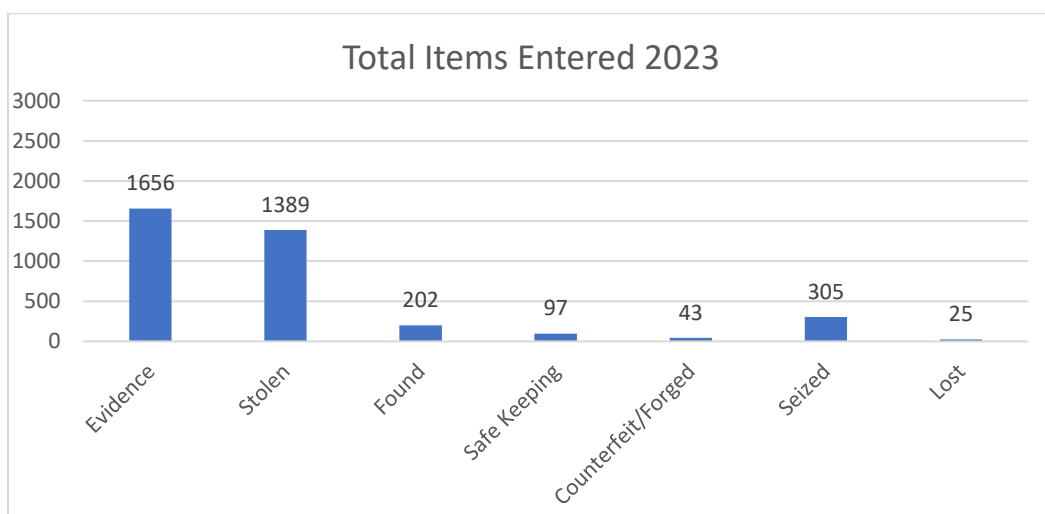
Property and Evidence 2023 in Review

The department uses an electronic format versus the live auction to sell property eligible for release. We have found this method increases the value of the property as more people have access to these items rather than at an in-person auction. The Moorhead Police Department posts items online through electronic auctions on K-Bid.com.

Total revenue generated from the sale of eligible property was \$1,162.32. This revenue goes directly into the city's general fund.

2,176 items were entered into Property and Evidence in 2023. This includes 1,389 additional items that were listed as stolen items.

The number for seized property decreased. 2023: 240; 2022: 547.



The start of year balance of the Property and Evidence account was \$215,840.55.

\$89,477.00 in cash deposits were made into the Property and Evidence account for storage until disposition of the criminal cases.

\$87,082.00 was withdrawn from this account in 2023. \$963.00 was returned to the owner or victim after the criminal case was resolved. \$187,082.00 was deposited into the city's Drug Seizure account after the criminal case was resolved. Any drug seizure money is split with the State of Minnesota, the Clay County Attorney's Office, and any other agency that assists with the investigation. In this case the following agencies received the following amounts:

- State of Minnesota \$18,708.20
- Clay County Attorney's Office \$37,416.40
- Cass County Sheriff's Office \$838.95
- Fargo Police Department \$838.95
- Moorhead Police Department \$69,672.75
- Clay County Sheriff's Office \$59,490.20
- West Fargo Police Department \$116.55

\$1,428.25 accrued interest in 2023.

The year-end balance of the account is \$110,830.74.

All transactions with the Property and Evidence Unit are documented with the City of Moorhead's Accounting Division.

The Drug Safe Program available to Moorhead residents was extended to collaborate with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The DEA will destroy the prescribed narcotics and other prescriptions.

The Moorhead Police Department stores audio/video/photographic evidence electronically. Most evidence from minor case files (petty misdemeanors) is photographed and destroyed. Retention of electronic versus hard evidence increases efficiency and decreases the volume of hard evidentiary items retained by the Property Unit.



Red River Valley Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T)

The Red River Valley SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team is a highly trained, multi-agency team composed of law enforcement officers who are available to respond to high-risk incidents in our region. The team is made up of a Tactical Unit (including medics), a Negotiations Unit, and a Bomb Unit. The team includes officers, deputies, and medics from the Fargo Police Department, Moorhead Police Department, West Fargo Police Department, Cass County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Sheriff's Office, NDSU Police Department, Sanford Ambulance, and Sanford AirMed.

The Red River Valley SWAT team is a part-time team. The SWAT position is a specialty assignment within each agency. Each member has a full-time function within their home agency (patrol officer, detective, paramedic, etc.) with SWAT being an added responsibility.

The SWAT team is led by a Team Commander and Assistant Team Commander who oversee all units. During a high-risk incident, SWAT Command works closely with the local jurisdiction's Incident Commander to coordinate and carry out the safest response possible.

The SWAT team takes pride in being a part of our community and wants to be transparent in their role. The SWAT team participated in several local events to include the Holiday Lights Parade, St Patty's Day Parade, Fargo Marathon 5K Run and the annual Polar Plunge Special Olympics fundraiser.

Tactical Unit

The Tactical Unit is utilized for high-risk search warrant service, barricaded individuals that pose a high risk to the public or law enforcement, hostage rescue situations, and many other situations which are viewed as extremely dangerous in nature. The Tactical Unit is composed of 27 SWAT members; many of which are assigned to specialized roles including snipers, breachers, Rook operators, Tech, and less lethal/gas deployment.

Members of the Moorhead Police Department assigned to the Tactical Unit include:

Lieutenant J. Laddie Bata	Tactical Operator
Officer Matthew Lambert	Tactical Operator
Officer Kyle Huewe	Tactical Operator
Officer Cuyler Huewe	Tactical Operator

The Tactical Unit was called on 24 times in 2023 for a variety of different situations.

The Tactical Unit prides itself on training hard and staying proficient in their tactics and firearms skills. The Tactical Unit has regular trainings, twice each month. New operators in the Tactical Unit are selected in April each year and begin training with the team after successfully completing a week-long Basic SWAT training course in May. In addition, The Tactical Unit trains at Camp Ripley, MN, for a week each year in September. The team takes advantage of this opportunity by training between 14 and 16 hours a day and utilizes many of the training facilities and ranges that are available. This training also serves as the final test for new operators to become fully operational. The SWAT team completed 22 days of regularly scheduled training with 4 additional days of training at Camp Ripley, MN. In total, the team completed approximately 169 hours of training.

Negotiations Unit

The mission of the Negotiations team is to reach successful resolution of critical incidents through professional and calm dialogue with those involved. The Negotiation team often responds with SWAT's Tactical Unit during a critical incident. When deployed with all SWAT elements, each team works together towards the common overall goal.

The Negotiations Unit is comprised of ten negotiators. This includes one Team Leader and two Assistant Team Leaders. The Moorhead Police Department currently has two members allocated to the Negotiations Unit:

Officer Jonathan Hanson
Officer Michaela Bolgrean

In December 2023, Officer Hanson was selected as an Assistant Team Leader for the Negotiations Unit.

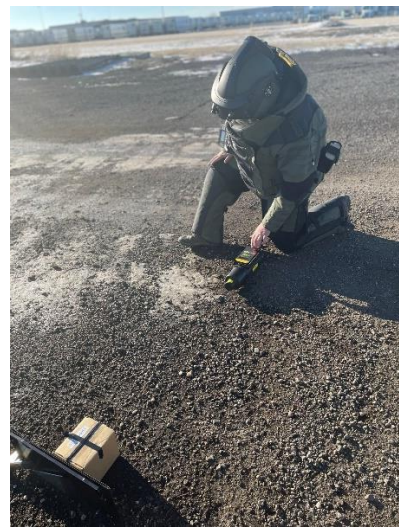
The Negotiations team trains one day per month and attends several trainings with all SWAT elements throughout the year. New negotiators must attend a 40 hour course covering contemporary negotiation concepts. A new member must also act as the primary negotiator during a prolonged training scenario before becoming a fully operational member of the team.

Throughout the year, the Negotiations Unit was deployed 16 times to provide support to the Tactical Unit and other metro law enforcement agencies during high-risk and critical incidents. Beyond deployments, members of the Red River Valley SWAT Negotiations Unit showcased their expertise by presenting a case study at the First Annual Minnesota Crisis Negotiations Conference. They also represented the team at various community engagement events in the metro area and conducted presentations for community members, shedding light on the roles and responsibilities of the Negotiations Unit. The dedicated efforts of the Negotiations Unit underscore their commitment to public safety and effective crisis resolution.

Bomb Unit

The Bomb Squad is a highly specialized and trained unit that is tasked with assisting the community and local law enforcement agencies in the education, identification, and disposal of all energetic materials. The Bomb Squad falls under the umbrella of the Red River Valley SWAT team. The Bomb Squad deploys several different types of technology that can assist in remotely assessing potentially dangerous items to include x-ray machines, robots, and containment vessels. There are currently seven members on the team, including MPD Sergeant Nick Leinen:

- 1 Commander
- 1 Assistant Commander
- 3 Certified Bomb Technicians
- 2 Technicians in Training



The Red River Regional Bomb Squad is a regional team comprised of technicians from Fargo PD, West Fargo PD, Cass County SO, NDSU PD, Moorhead PD and Clay County SO. The NDSU position is vacant. Our team is accredited by the FBI and trains twice monthly to maintain accreditation. The team trained for approximately 940 hours in 2023. The team currently has two members in training. These members are training in preparation to attend Hazardous Devices School (Basic Certification) in 2024 or 2025. In 2023, there was a notable up-tick in call outs. The most notable call was our team's response to assist with the aftermath of the officer involved shooting in Fargo on July 14. The team spent approximately 140 hours on this call alone over three days.

On 7/14/23, the team responded to assist with a large-scale scene following the shooting of three Fargo Police Officers and one civilian in Fargo. The suspect's apartment was checked by an Explosive Detection K9 resulting in a hit at the apartment door. We assisted the FBI and BCI in the execution of a search warrant and recovery of energetic materials. The following day the BCI requested assistance with items found in the suspect's vehicle. A modified grenade and two altered

propane tanks were identified as IEDs and were destroyed. The following day the team responded back to the suspect's apartment to assist the FBI and BCI in an additional search warrant to recover further evidence.

UPDATE: Fargo police appear to clear scene after warning of possible explosives

"Officers came by and told us to lock everyone indoors and lock the doors. After what happened on 25th, we kind of take these things seriously," Babb's Coffee House Owner Shawn Gibree said.



A member of the Fargo Police Department's bomb squad walks west on Main Avenue on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023. Contributed / Shawn Gibree

Summary of calls

IED – 5
Energetic Chemicals – 3
Suspicious Packages – 8
Recoveries – 24
Dignitary Sweep – 1
SWAT Assists – 4
Total Responses: 45