



WAUWATOSA

POLICE DEPARTMENT



2025 Annual Report

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Mission, Vision, & Values



MISSION

Dedicated service and protection for all.

VISION

To foster a safe and secure community through collaboration, trust and exceptional police service.

VALUES

Courage, Integrity, Respect, Compassion



Executive Staff



James MacGillis
Chief of Police



Shane Wrucke
Patrol Captain



Katie Gierach
Support Services Captain



Luke Vetter
Administrative Captain



Mayor & City Administrator



Mayor Dennis McBride



City Administrator James Archambo

Police and Fire Commissioners



Left to right: Phillip Morris, Stan Stojkovic, Victor Plantinga, Greg Leahy, and Danielle Basil-Long (President)



James MacGillis Letter from the Police Chief

Dear Mayor, Wauwatosa Common Council, and residents of Wauwatosa,

The 2025 Annual Report provides an opportunity to inform our community about the services delivered by the Wauwatosa Police Department over the past year. It also allows us to highlight the strategic initiatives we have accomplished and to outline the direction of policing in our community as we move forward.

Our strategic goals remain consistent and timeless:

- Community Service
- Organizational Efficiencies
- Technology Enhancements
- Employee Engagement
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Facilities Upgrades

While this report focuses on our operations and measurable outcomes for 2025, I want to acknowledge the important organizational efforts that have guided our progress. The Department started instituting recommendations from the CERTUS organizational study that have strengthened our structure, our internal processes, and employee development. We continue to apply evidence-based policing strategies to guide development and decision-making. Additionally, we have continued to leverage technology to enhance efficiency in operations and department administration. Those efforts position our policing strategy to serve more effectively today and, in the years ahead.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the men and women of the Wauwatosa Police Department for their tireless commitment to serving our community. The success of policing in Wauwatosa is made possible by their professionalism, dedication, and unwavering service to others.

While we have continued to face challenges in 2025 related to attrition and staffing levels, the City of Wauwatosa and the greater community have been supportive as we address cultural, marketing, and fiscal considerations. Public safety is a shared responsibility, and I remain optimistic about the trust we have built and our continued collaboration to ensure a safer Wauwatosa for all.

Sincerely,



James H. MacGillis
Chief of Police



Shane Wrucke Report from the Patrol Bureau Captain

The patrol bureau is comprised of the dedicated men and women who provide 24/7 law enforcement services to our community, including several strategic contractual partnerships. Through on-going staffing challenges, our officers have continued to meet our vision of exceptional police services. The patrol bureau also oversees several full-time and collateral duty units and teams, such as the Special Response Team, Critical Incident Response Team, K-9 Unit, Drone Unit, Crash Investigation Unit, Drug Recognition Experts, Crisis Assessment Response Team.

Our officers responded to nearly 37,000 calls for service in 2025. Property crimes are down nearly 8%.

- 47% decrease in motor vehicle thefts.
- 47% decrease in theft from motor vehicles

There was a 20% increase in enforcement in operating while intoxicated offenses, ensuring safer roads for those traveling in and through Wauwatosa.

In 2025, in partnership with the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services, we deployed a full-time Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART). The program pairs an officer trained in mental health evaluations with a clinician from BHS to support the mental health needs, specifically those in crisis, of our residents and visitors. The team deployed on 235 calls for service in our community throughout the year. You can read more about the CART team in a later section of this report.

We continue our partnership with Northeastern University exploring hot spot policing with a federal Department of Justice funded grant. This initiative supports further implementation of evidence-based policing to ensure we maintain industry best practices.

The members of the patrol bureau demonstrate their commitment to our mission, vision, and values, daily while performing their duties. It is my honor to work with them in ensuring a safe community.



Katie Gierach

Report from the Support Services Bureau Captain

The Support Services Bureau is comprised of sworn and civilian professionals dedicated to strengthening investigations, developing our personnel, and fostering key partnerships that enhance public safety. Through two primary divisions – the Investigative Division and the Training & Personnel Division – the Bureau provides the structure, expertise, and leadership necessary to support the department's mission today while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow. In addition, Support Services serves as the primary leadership liaison between our department and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center organizations, ensuring the success of our enhanced policing services partnership.

The Investigative Division is responsible for the thorough and professional follow-up of criminal cases, working closely with patrol officers, regional law enforcement partners, and prosecutors. Detectives manage a wide range of cases, applying specialized skills and practices to bring cases to a resolution. Their work often extends beyond community boundaries, requiring collaboration, adaptability, and a commitment to justice. The division also oversees evidence management and provides crime analysis efforts that support proactive policing strategies.

The Training & Personnel Division focuses on the recruitment, hiring, development, and wellness of our department members. From coordinating academy training to facilitating advanced and specialized instruction, the division ensures our officers and staff are well-prepared to serve with professionalism and integrity. Personnel functions include hiring processes, promotional processes, and maintaining compliance with state training standards. This division plays a critical role in shaping the readiness and long-term sustainability of our workforce.

Beyond those two divisions, the Bureau maintains a strong and collaborative relationship with the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center organizations. As the department's leadership liaison, I work closely with medical center administrators and security leadership to support our enhanced policing services contract. This partnership strengthens safety within a complex healthcare environment, ensures coordinated response to incidents, and reinforces our shared commitment to patient, visitor, and staff safety.

The members of the Support Services Bureau remain committed to strengthening investigations, investing in our personnel, and sustaining the partnerships that enhance public safety. Their work ensures our department is prepared, responsive, and positioned for continued success.



Luke Vetter

Report from the Administrative Bureau Captain

The Administrative Bureau is comprised of sworn and civilian staff that partner and sustain the Patrol and Support Bureaus. Two divisions and several units work within Administration: The communications center (911 dispatch), community and special events management, school resource officers, reserve officers, parking enforcement, records and personnel file management, customer service, jail management, department budget, building and fleet maintenance, and information systems management.

The communications center is the focal point for incoming requests for police, fire and emergency medical services. Forty to fifty thousand calls for these services come through the center each year and are handled by our highly trained and skilled telecommunicators.

Administrative staff and specialists handle customer service, lobby, police records management and requests, personnel file management, and state and federal Department of Justice communications through eTIME, NCIC, CIB, DOT, and DMV systems.

Wauwatosa is a centrally located and beautiful community with a wide number of amenities. It is well known for its numerous school community and special events throughout the year. Sworn and civilian staff review, manage and plan for the safety of these events that occur within the Village, business districts, parks or streets of our community.

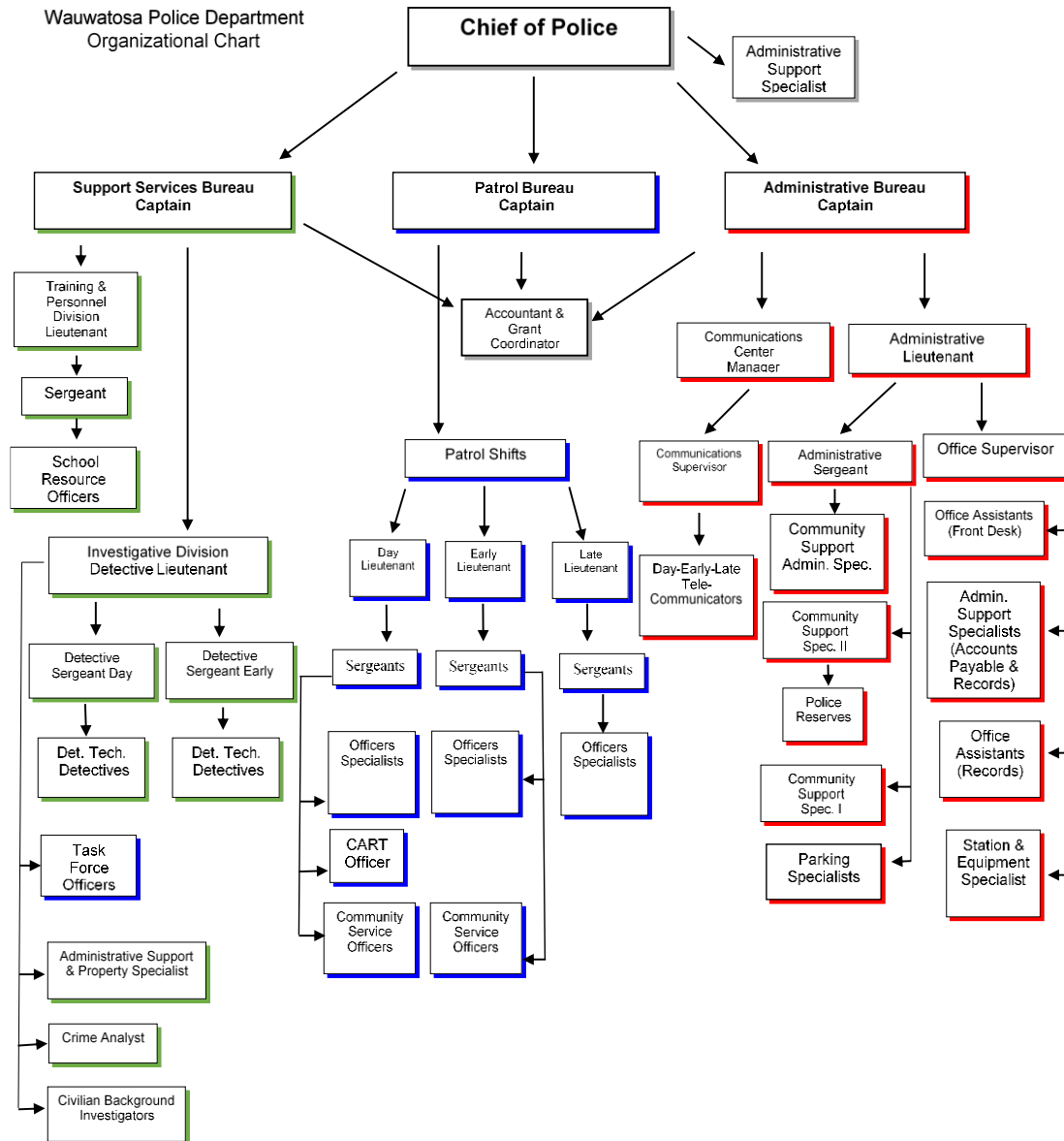
Administrative staff are also responsible for creating, managing and executing the department's budget. The police budget is one of the largest within the city due to the large number of sworn and civilian staff. We regularly seek and use grants and asset forfeiture funds to supplement and enhance public safety and police operations. We recently have focused on gaining efficiencies and increasing technology to improve operations.

In the last quarter of 2025, some Administrative functions transitioned to the Patrol and Support Services Bureaus due to a planned organizational structure change. Eventually, all Administrative functions will be assigned to the two remaining bureaus in summer of 2026.

The members of the Administrative Bureau diligently and proudly accomplish their mission to provide forward-facing, and behind the scenes work to serve the community.



**Wauwatosa Police Department
Organizational Chart
As of: August 24, 2025**



Between January and August, the following changes were implemented to the Organizational Chart:

- An Administrative Support Specialist position was converted to an Office Supervisor position, displacing an Administrative Sergeant, reporting to the Administrative Lieutenant within the Administrative Bureau.
- The displaced Administrative Sergeant position was moved to the Day Shift Patrol Division, adding a third patrol sergeant to the division.
- The four School Resource Officers were re-assigned to the Training & Personnel Sergeant, under the Training & Personnel Division, within the Support Services Bureau.

More changes to the Organizational Chart are planned for 2026.



Chief of Police – James H. MacGillis
Administrative Support Specialist – Mary Weger

Patrol Bureau

Captain Shane Wrucke

Day Shift

Lt. Joseph Zientek
Sgt. Edward Tyrpak
Sgt. George Opelt

Early Shift

Lt. Jacob Grosenick
Sgt. Jordan Yandre
Sgt. Alejandro Patnode Fonseca

Late Shift

Lt. Abby Pavlik
Sgt. Joseph Wong
Sgt. Ryan Schwabenlander
Sgt. Michael Leeman

P.O. Michael Pearson
P.O. Julie Gibbs
P.O. Derek Dienhart
P.O. Steven Miszewski
P.S. Ralph Salyers (CIU)
P.O. Travis Machalk
P.O. Anthony San Felippo
P.S. Dexter Schleis
P.S. Daniel Trester (CIU)
P.O. Jeffrey Johnson
P.O. Aaron Radwill
P.O. Mitchell Kriz
P.O. Adam Nelson
P.O. Alexander Herrera
P.O. Nathan Templer
P.O. Trevor Millonzi
P.O. Wesley Reed-Walton
P.O. Matthew Prell
P.O. Jeremy Saffold (CART)

P.O. Benjamin Ziegler & K9 Zev
P.O. Keiagane Mork-Cardon
P.O. Collin George
P.S. Zosia Bartosik (CIU)
P.O. Eli Streeter
P.O. Teagan Joyce
P.O. Tyler Pytlik
P.S. Brenlyn Sibley (CIU)
P.O. Kayla La Fontain
P.O. Jacob Faber
P.O. Chad Bublit
P.O. Ricardo Lozano
P.O. Ashley Trawicki
P.O. Madeline Larson
P.O. Jaime Mohs
P.O. Patrick Baker
P.O. Evan Olson

P.O. Benjamin Rebholz & K9 Koa
P.O. Andrew Floryance
P.O. Adam Tapp
P.S. Karl Steberl (CIU)
P.O. Durell Smith
P.O. Colan Eigenbrod
P.O. Jacob Shoman
P.O. Garrett Wells
P.O. Shaun Foster
P.O. Manvinder Singh
P.O. Robert Gilbreath
P.O. Travis Karweik
P.O. Samuel Soukup

Field Training Program

P.O. Andrew Vasseur
P.O. Kullen Winkler
P.O. Olivia Jorgensen

Community Service Officers

C.S.O. Ian Rees
C.S.O. Citlali Ruby Sandoval
C.S.O. Nikolai Scheckel
C.S.O. Ryan Bravo
C.S.O. Zachary Szuba
C.S.O. Roba Elkatan



Support Services Bureau
Captain Katie Gierach

Training & Personnel

Lt. Chad Geiszler
Sgt. Joseph Lewandowski

School Resource Officers

SRO Farris Griffin
SRO Maria Albiter
SRO Kelsey Pentimalli

Investigative Division / Day

Lt. Joseph Roy
Sgt. James Wood

Det. Tech. Stephen Kirby
Det. John Milotzky
Det. Bradley Isaacson
Det. Martin Keck
Det. Ryan Cepican
Det. Timothy Kastner
Det. Joel Kutz
Det. Beth Itnyre
Det. David Cefalu
P.O. Matthew Martell (USMS TF)

Investigative Division / Early

Sgt. Kurt Svatek

Det. Tech. Michael Romeis
Det. Kirk Will
Det. Stephen Schmidt
Det. Bryan Wade
Det. Daniel Mitchell

Crime Analyst

Dominick Ratkowski

Property Custodian / Administrative Support

Victoria De Vita



Administrative Bureau

Captain Luke Vetter

Accountant / Grant Coordinator – Karla Olson

Administrative Division

Lt. Bradley Beckman / Lt. Cory Wex

Communications Division

Disp. Manager Tamara Engelken

Administrative Sergeant

Sgt. Thomas Orłowski

Office Supervisor

Katie Sandoval

Dispatch Center

Disp. Supervisor Gregory Geis

Comm. Supp. Admin. Support

Laura Laurishke

Administrative Support

Alexander Witt

Telecommunicators

Katie Meyer

Comm. Supp. Specialists

P.S. II Michael McDermott

P.S. I Dexter Schleis

Front Office

Rosalyn Wozny

Hannah Brousseau

Scott Burgardt

Katie Martorano

Kerri Jay

Katie Tyrpak

Tia Harris

Parking Specialists

Tara Wright

Michael Whitson

Gregory Manke

Records

Maija Ptaszek

Susan Selner

Nicole Lambrecht

Brianna Potter

Kyle Meltesen

Ruth Phillips

Eleri Linscott

Rhondi Love

Administrative Station Support

Joseph Karius

Makela Humke

Administrative Systems

Kathy Wicinski

Bradley Daleiden



Personnel Updates

NEW EMPLOYEES

January: Patrick Baker & Kullen Winkler (police officers)
February: Evan Olson (police officer – re-hire)
April: Wesley Reed-Walton (police officer)
May: Citlali Rubi Sandoval (community service officer)
June: Matthew Prell (police officer)
July: Nikolai Scheckel (community service officer), Olivia Jorgensen (police officer)
October: Roba Elkatan & Zachary Szuba (community service officers), Gregory Manke (parking specialist)
November: Katie Sandoval (office supervisor)

PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

- **Officer Michael Leeman** was promoted to the rank of **Sergeant** effective January 12, 2025.
- **Lieutenant Katie Gierach** was promoted to the rank of **Captain** effective February 23, 2025.
- **Sergeant Abby Pavlik** was promoted to the rank of **Lieutenant** effective February 23, 2025.
- **Patrol Specialist Bryan Wade** was promoted to the rank of **Detective** effective March 9, 2025.
- **Officer Karl Steberl** was appointed to the position of **Patrol Specialist I – Crash Investigator** effective March 9, 2025.
- **Officer Alejandro Patnode Fonseca** was promoted to the rank of **Sergeant** effective April 20, 2025.
- **Officer George Opelt** was promoted to the rank of **Sergeant** effective July 27, 2025.
- **Officer Kelsey Pentimalli** was appointed to the position of **School Resource Officer** effective August 10, 2025.
- **Patrol Specialist Daniel Mitchell** was promoted to the rank of **Detective** effective October 5, 2025.



- **Officer Dexter Schleis** was appointed to the position of **Community Patrol Specialist 1** effective October 5, 2025.
- **Officer Zosia Bartosik** was appointed to the position of **Patrol Specialist I – Crash Investigator** effective October 19, 2025.
- **Sergeant Jacob Grosenick** was promoted to the rank of **Lieutenant** effective December 14, 2025.

ASSIGNMENTS TO SPECIALITY UNITS/TEAMS

Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)

- Officer Durell Smith
- Officer Nathan Templer
- Officer Ricardo Lozano
- Officer Chad Bublitz

Drug Recognition Experts

- Officer Ricardo Lozano
- Officer Madeline Larson

Special Response Team (SRT)

- Officer Tyler Pytlik
- Officer Kayla La Fontain

RETIREMENTS & OTHER SEPARATIONS

Retirements

- **Captain Gary Gabrish** retired on March 14, 2025 after 29 years of service.
- **Detective Nicholas Stahl** retired on April 25, 2025 after 19 years of service.
- **Administrative Support Specialist Terri Kobs** retired on May 16, 2025 after 29 years of service.
- **Patrol Specialist I Dan Kane** retired on June 2, 2025 after 25 years of service.
- **Parking Specialist Anthony “Tony” Roberts** retired on June 5, 2025 after 13 years of service.
- **Sergeant James Morrill** retired on June 11, 2025 after 17 years of service.

Other Separations

January: Dylan Johnson (police officer)
February: Charles Peterson (community service officer)
May: Cordero Finley (police officer)



June: Eric Benson (police officer)
July: Nolan Erwin (community service officer)
August: Michael Whitson (parking specialist), Mikaylah Lindsey (police officer)
September: Bryanna Polk (office assistant)
October: Jack Gerstmeier (police officer), Syed Arslan Mudassar (police officer)

The following were recognized at the Wauwatosa Police Department's Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony for actions in 2025.

Letter of Appreciation – recognizing a noteworthy contribution to the department.

School Resource Officer Farris Griffin
School Resource Officer Maria Albiter
Sergeant Michael Leeman
Sergeant George Opelt

Chief's Excellence Award – Recognizing a member who has demonstrated exemplary performance in service to the department and/or community through work on a specific project(s) or performance during a specific incident(s).

Patrol Specialist Brennyn Sibley
Detective David Cefalu
Sergeant Edward Tyrpak
Lieutenant Joseph Roy

Meritorious Arrest Citation – Recognizing exceptional employment of trained police investigative and interrogative skill, ability, and intensity in the arrest and clearance of a criminal offense. The member's powers of observation, prowess, and knowledge of criminal activity and/or tactical approach to a crime in progress demonstrate the member's professionalism.

Officer Evan Olson
Officer Tyler Pytlik
Officer Aaron Radwill
Detective Martin Keck
Sergeant Alexander Herrera

Departmental Commendation – Recognizing an act which displays outstanding achievement or brings credit to the department. Performance above and beyond that required by an officer's basic requirement.

Detective Ryan Cepican

Police Blue Star – An award granted to a member who, as a result of accidental causes, has been seriously or critically injured while in the performance of police duty.

Officer Chad Bublitz



Health Department Partnership: Social Worker Role & Facility Dog Program

The Wauwatosa Health Department staffs a full time Social Worker, Kendall Wolter, to assist Wauwatosa residents with accessing necessary community services and resources. This is a shared position between the Health, Fire, and Police Departments in Wauwatosa. She receives referrals from all three departments to connect with individuals in the community that may need more longer-term support than these departments can provide. Kendall is able to assess individuals at any location in the community, to determine what kind of assistance they may benefit from. She then facilitates referrals to appropriate community services and agencies.

Kendall Wolter



In 2025, Kendall received 151 total referrals for service (64 from police), and this was despite the fact that she was on maternity leave for the first month and a half of the year. During 2025, the highest number of referrals (54) were for direct mental health support. Other common referrals included aging-related concerns (34), hoarding (21), and homelessness (19). Out of the 151 referrals, 108 were able to be successfully connected with a service to address their needs.

This past year also saw the implementation of the next phase of the City's Facility Dog Program. After grieving the loss of our first dog, Jordan, who passed away from cancer in March 2025, we added a 7-month-old golden retriever named Leo to our program in October. Leo provides emotional support and comfort to Wauwatosa's first responders. A facility dog is a specially trained dog that works in group settings, is trained to perform basic commands, and can provide calming techniques to enhance therapies, promote participation, and reduce anxiety in professional environments. We continue to thank *Partners With Paws Service Dogs* for their generous donation to our program. Leo's primary handler is Lt. Joe Roy, but he regularly visits the Health and Fire Departments, in addition to the Police Department.



For more information, contact Social Worker Kendall Wolter at 414-333-3719 or kwolter@wauwatosa.net.

Leo and his Handlers



Specialized Units & Teams

Drug Recognition Experts (DRE's)

A Drug Recognition Expert is a police officer trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) coordinates the International Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program with support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The DRE protocol is a standardized method to determine:

1. Whether or not the suspect is impaired; if so,
2. Whether the impairment relates to drugs or medical condition; and if drugs,
3. What category or combination of categories of drugs is the cause of impairment?

The Wauwatosa Police Department has seven certified Drug Recognition Experts: Lt. Cory Wex, Sgt. Kurt Svatek, Sgt. Ryan Schwabenlander, Detective Ryan Cepican, Officer Mitchell Kriz, Officer Ricardo Lozano, and Officer Madeline Larson. Detective Cepican is also a certified DRE Instructor and taught at two different DRE classes in 2025.

In 2025, our DREs conducted 76 evaluations, of those 76, 16 were enforcement evaluations and 60 were training evaluations. Officers Ricardo Lozano and Madeline Larson each passed the intense four-week DRE school in 2025, with Officer Ricardo Lozano earning the valedictorian achievement of his class.

Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)

The Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) is a specially trained crowd management unit responsible for the protection of life and property during planned and spontaneous events. CIRT members train in a variety of skills and tactics, including crowd management, chemical irritant dispersal, and non-lethal considerations.



CIRT trains with the Suburban Major Incident Response Team (SMIRT) in preparation for large events and crowd management needs in the region.

Sergeant Edward Tyrpak is the Commander of the Wauwatosa Police Department CIRT and Co-Commander of the SMIRT.

Officer Kelsey Pentimalli is the Assistant Team Commander for CIRT.



Special Response Team (SRT)

In 2025, Sergeant James Wood led the Wauwatosa Police Department Special Response Team (SRT).

Members of SRT are trained in a wide variety of tactics and skills including hostage/citizen rescue tactics, the execution of high-risk search/arrest warrants, and resolution of armed and barricaded criminal suspects. Members are also specially trained in the use of chemical irritants and other non-lethal force options. To maintain membership in the SRT, officers must pass a challenging annual physical fitness test, an annual weapons qualification, and meet minimum training hours.



Drone Unit

The Wauwatosa Police Drone Unit was created in 2024 and is comprised of eight pilots. Prior to flying, each pilot earned a Part 107 certificate (Remote Pilot Certificate) through the Federal Aviation Association. This certificate requires the pilot to pass a knowledge test and be designated as a commercial drone operator. When deployed, one pilot assumes the "PIC", or Pilot in Command, responsibility while another pilot acts as a "VO", or Visual Observer.

The drone has been deployed in several instances ranging from suspect apprehension, search and rescue, building interior searches and mapping for both crash and crime scenes. Additionally, our Drone Unit is available to assist our surrounding law enforcement partners. All of our drones can take photographs and video.

Our fleet consists of:

- DJI Mavic 3T – exterior applications, ability to take photos and videos and is equipped with a thermal sensor. Has a loud speaker and spot light attachment that can be used for large gatherings and night time searching.
- Avata 2 – primarily used for interior applications; can take photos and videos.
- Autel Evo Max 4T-XE – this drone will start flying in 2026. It is a newer version that offers enhanced image and thermal sensors. There is a loud speaker and spot light attachment.

Drone Unit Command:

Drone Program Commander: Sgt. Joseph Lewandowski

Drone Team Leader: Officer Travis Karweik

Drone Pilots: Detective Daniel Mitchell, Patrol Specialist Ralph Salyers III, Patrol Specialist Dexter Schleis, Officer Ricardo Lozano, Officer Jacob Faber, and Crime Analyst Dominick Ratkowski



Police Motor Unit

Serving the Wauwatosa community since 2008, the Motor Unit provides excellent police service through high-visibility traffic enforcement, crash investigations, and assisting in special events including dignitary and funeral escorts, as well as parades and other demonstrations.

We have four motor officers in total, including one police motorcycle operator instructor. We maintain a fleet of three Harley-Davidson Police motorcycles.



Officers rode over 10,000 miles and participated in numerous special events, such as the 4th of July parade, and Tosa's Night Out. We also escorted the C.O.P.S. Kids Camp for surviving children of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty.

Motor Officers: Lt. Cory Wex (Motor Unit Supervisor), Patrol Specialist Ralph Salyers III, Officer Evan Olson and Officer Keiagane Mork-Cardon



Crash Investigation Unit

The Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) is a full-time team of five Patrol Specialists assigned across all three patrol shifts to ensure consistent citywide coverage. The unit plays a critical role in protecting the community by responding to serious traffic crashes and complex scenes where accurate documentation and thorough investigation are essential for accountability and public confidence.

Members receive advanced training in crash investigation, vehicle dynamics, and forensic evidence identification and collection. They respond to fatal crashes, incidents involving serious injury or likelihood of fatality, and hit-and-run injury crashes. The unit supports patrol operations with crime scene documentation, evidence processing, and forensic photography, ensuring investigations are done with professionalism, precision, and integrity.

In 2025, the CIU responded to 73 personal injury crashes, 149 hit-and-run crashes, and 355 property damage only crashes. Through timely response, compassionate interaction with victims and families, and meticulous investigative work, the unit contributes directly to roadway safety, justice for those impacted, and the overall well-being of the Wauwatosa community.

The CIU is led by Lt. Joseph Roy & Sgt. Ryan Schwabenlander.



Crisis Assessment Response Team

The introductory year of our Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART) was in 2025. In January 2025, to prepare for implementation, Officer Jeremy Saffold completed an intensive, hands-on training process by shadowing Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office deputies, Milwaukee Police Department CART officers, and West Allis Police Department CART officers, respectively. In February 2025, the Wauwatosa CART program began responding to calls within the city.



One of the primary missions of CART is to increase voluntary compliance from individuals in crisis. In 2025, we saw a decrease in emergency detentions from 2024. During the first year, CART responded to 235 calls for service.

Officer Saffold continues to work closely with our community partners such as the Wauwatosa School District, Froedtert Hospital, Children's Wisconsin, and Aurora Psychiatric Hospital. When responding to calls at each location, CART was able to provide on-scene stabilization while individuals were in crisis. CART has also been able to connect community members in crisis directly to county-level services by making referrals on their behalf.

Looking ahead to 2026, we want to increase mental health awareness within the community and continue making resources accessible to community members across all levels. Our CART program will continue to work with our community partners to improve understandings of mental health legislation and resources to improve voluntary participation with services. If you or someone you know is in crisis, CART is available Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. by calling 414-471-8430.

Below L-R: Patrice Moore, LPC, CART Officer Jeremy Saffold, Richam Davis, LPC



K-9 Unit

The K9 Unit is an integral part of the Police Department assisting patrol officers in the apprehension of criminals, finding missing persons, and locating illegal narcotics and weapons. The K9 Unit assists the school district and school resource officers by conducting random narcotic sweeps. The unit also conducts demonstrations at Tosa's Night Out and other community events.

The K9 Unit is comprised of one supervisor and two K9 teams. Sergeant Michael Leeman is the K9 Unit Supervisor. Officer Benjamin Rebholz, with his partner Koa, and Officer Benjamin Ziegler, with his partner Zev, make up the two K9 teams.

K9 Unit Deployment Statistics

- K9 Koa had 27 deployments; 5 for drug detection, 19 patrol deployments, and 3 public relations demonstrations. K9 Koa located and assisted in the apprehension of 7 criminal suspects.
- K9 Zev had 36 deployments; 12 for drug detection, 19 patrol deployments, and 5 public relations demonstrations. K9 Zev located and assisted in the apprehension of 7 criminal suspects.



Track with Arrest

On 01/06/25, at 2:03am, Wauwatosa Police pursued a stolen vehicle after it was seen driving recklessly in the area of the 2700 block of N. 76 St. The pursuit ended in the 8600 block of W. Appleton Ave. The driver and two passengers were arrested by officers. Another passenger ran from the vehicle. A track was conducted and K9 Koa found the suspect hiding in a bush in the backyard at 4945 N. 88 St. The suspect was arrested for operating motor vehicle without owner's consent, resisting and obstructing.

Mutual Aid Drug Sniff

On 03/20/25, K9 Zev assisted New Berlin Police Department with an external free air sniff of a vehicle during a traffic stop. K9 Zev alerted to the presence of narcotic odors during the sniff, where 2.9 grams heroin, 7.5 grams fentanyl, and 1.7g cocaine were seized.



Mutual Aid Track with Arrest

On 08/23/25, K9 Zev assisted West Allis Police Department with a perimeter and K9 track for a suspect following a pursuit, crash, and foot chase in the 400 block of N. 68th St. K9 Zev tracked into residential yards and found the suspect hiding in a garbage container. The suspect was turned over to West Allis police officers without incident.



School Resource Officers

We partner with the Wauwatosa School District to provide specially trained School Resource Officers, who are assigned to the two high schools and two middle schools in the District.

In addition to serving the high schools and middle schools, the SROs also assist with the needs of all public and private schools in the community.

Officers Left to Right:

Kelsey Pentimalli – Longfellow & Whitman Middle Schools

Farris Griffin – Wauwatosa West High School

Maria Albiter – Wauwatosa East High School



The SRO Program is designed to promote a safe and healthy school environment and create strong and positive relationships between students, their families, school staff, and Police Officers. SROs routinely present information in classrooms and assemblies as guest speakers. They also enjoy being present at school plays, dances, sporting events, and other extracurricular activities.

Though there is a strong focus on school safety, the SROs will tell you the most rewarding part of their job is their daily interactions with students. The role of the SRO allows the officers to build rapport with kids, to be a consistent positive presence in their lives, and to simply be another trusted adult in the building. It is not uncommon for students to stop by an SRO's office just to say hello or to grab a bottle of water. Year after year the SROs enjoy taking part in helping students progress through their school careers and building long-lasting community relationships.

In 2025, from January to June, and September to December, the SROs responded to 537 calls for service. It is important to note that not every interaction an SRO has with a student generates a call for service. Though SROs are law enforcement officers, one of their main goals is finding alternatives to taking legal action whenever possible.



Community Service Officers

The Community Service Officers (CSOs) are uniformed, part-time, non-sworn officers of the Wauwatosa Police Department. They provide public services to the community that don't require a response from a police officer.

Their purpose is to work in partnership with patrol officers and citizens to maintain a safe, peaceful community by providing professional services dedicated to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

In 2025, the department's six CSOs responded to 996 calls while assisting patrol officers with an additional 271 calls. While the typical calls for service the CSOs respond to are considered a "lower priority" (such as graffiti complaints, abandoned autos, traffic control, etc.), having them available to supplement our busy patrol staff greatly enhances the department's ability to serve the community. The CSO program also provides its members the opportunity to work toward becoming sworn police officers with our department.



Crime Reporting

Wauwatosa Police Department collects and reports crime data using the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system which means data are collected on each single crime occurrence. For each of the offenses coming to the attention of law enforcement, various facts about the crime are collected. NIBRS collects data on each single incident and arrest within 22 offense categories made up of 46 specific crimes called Group A offenses. Group A offenses include crimes such as, assault, burglary, narcotics, homicide, motor vehicle theft, robbery, etc.

In addition to the Group A offenses, there are 10 Group B offense categories for which only arrest data are reported. (From the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook, NIBRS Edition, 1992) Group B offenses include things such as disorderly conduct, operating while intoxicated, trespassing, etc.

The below table exhibits data reported to the Wisconsin Department of Justice and is current as of 02/11/2026. All data represents the most accurate data available. Data is subject to change due to report processing and coding.

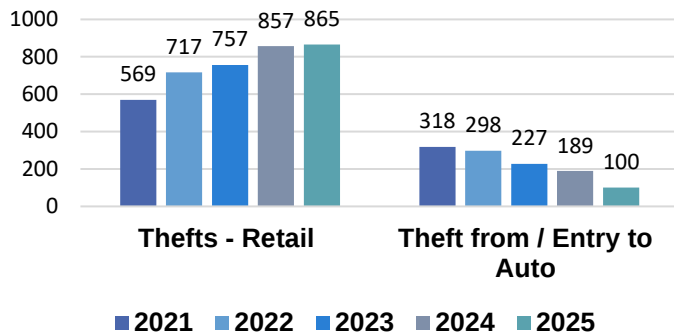
For the most up-to-date reported data and specific offense data, please visit:
<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bjia/wibrs-data>

Four-Year Summary

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Calls for Service	30,065	34,944	39,476	36,729
Offenses	2,978	3,053	3,248	2,964
Group A	2,221	2,174	2,272	2,027
Group B	757	879	976	937
Arrests	1,403	1,677	1,789	1,710
Group A	744	908	940	885
Group B	659	769	849	825
Crashes	1,081	887	832	1,024
Fatal	5	1	1	-
Hit & Run	201	105	93	105
Personal Injury	142	176	182	179
Property Damage Only	733	605	556	740
Citations				
Traffic	2,991	4,700	4,534	4,544
Parking	7,096	9,682	12,383	11,526

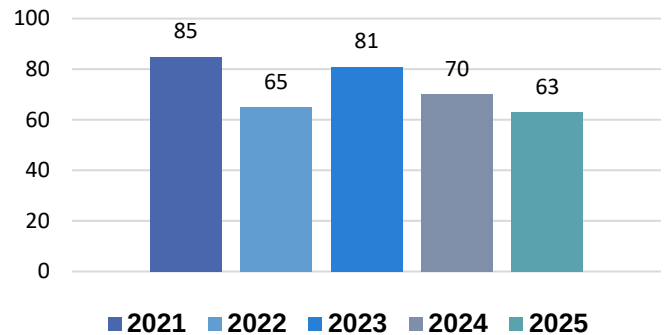


2021 - 2025 Thefts

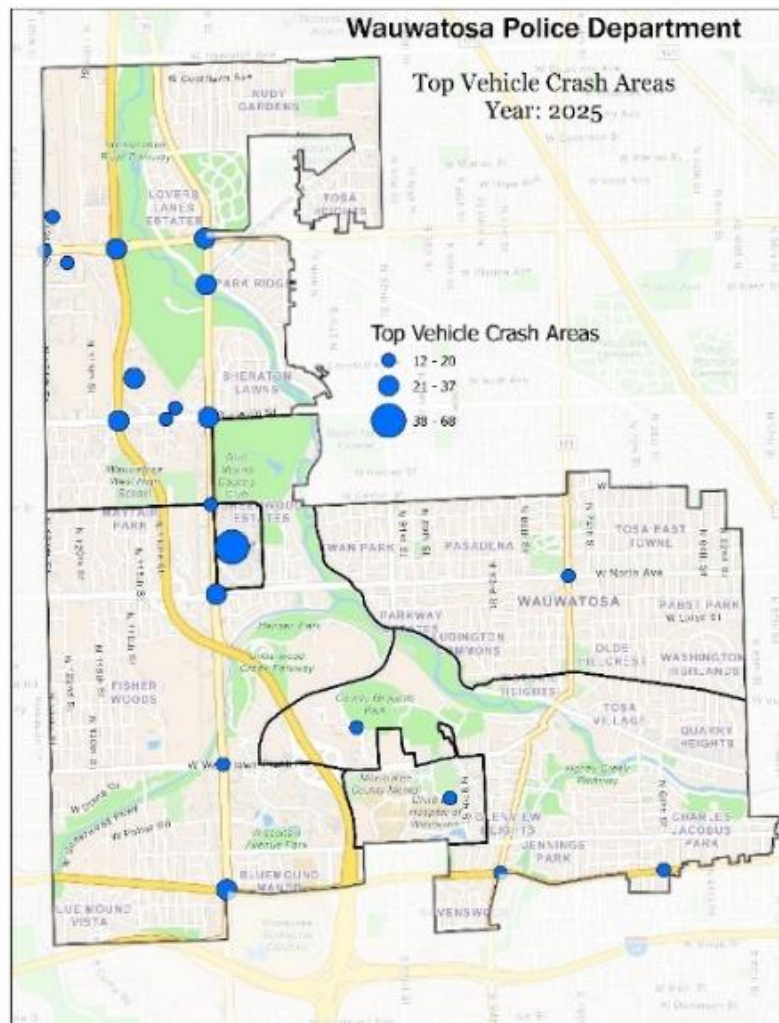


In 2025, there was an increase in theft from retail establishments. From 2024 to 2025, there was a 47.09% decrease in entry to auto incidents.

2021 - 2025 Burglaries



In 2025, 63 burglaries were reported to the Police Department. This chart shows a 10% decrease in burglaries from 2024 to 2025.



This map shows the areas where the majority of motor vehicle crashes occurred in Wauwatosa in 2025.



Supporting Divisions & Teams

Investigative Division

Mission and Organizational Development

The Wauwatosa Police Department's Investigative Division remains committed to the relentless pursuit of justice through thorough investigations conducted with integrity, professionalism, and collaboration.

In 2025, the division undertook intentional organizational refinement to better align operations with this mission and the Department's guiding principle of dedicated service and protection for all. An external assessment conducted by CERTUS identified opportunities to strengthen organizational structure, clarify expectations, and formalize performance standards. These findings served as a catalyst for modernizing investigative systems while maintaining the foundational principles of thoroughness, integrity, and dedication.

The division is staffed by detectives and detective technicians, supervised by sergeants and a lieutenant. A crime analyst and property custodian provide analytical and evidentiary support, ensuring investigative resources are aligned with operational needs.

Investigative Case Tempo

To improve case progression and accountability, the division implemented a 3 / 7 / 21 Day Investigative Tempo Standard:

- Within 3 working days: Detectives review the case, contact the victim, and develop an investigative plan.
- Within 7 working days: Detectives complete substantive follow-up and establish investigative direction.
- Within 21 working days: Most cases advance toward charging, closure, or supervisory review for extension.

This framework improves case movement, strengthens communication with victims and prosecutors, and provides measurable benchmarks while preserving investigative discretion for complex cases.

Case Assignment Matrix

The division also formalized a Case Assignment Matrix to standardize investigative workload distribution. Cases are evaluated based on solvability factors, complexity, specialization, and community impact before assignment. This approach aligns investigator expertise with case type, promotes equitable workload distribution, and prioritizes violent and high-impact offenses.



Intelligence and Interagency Collaboration

Strategic crime analysis and tactical intelligence are integrated into daily investigative operations to identify crime trends, support active investigations, and assist in suspect identification.

Investigative Division personnel also participate in regional and federal task forces alongside the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Secret Service, and United States Marshals Service. The Wauwatosa Police Department continues to serve as a lead agency within the Milwaukee Area Investigative Team (MAIT) under Wisconsin State Statute §175.47.

Property and Evidence Management

The Property Section remains essential to investigative integrity, maintaining secure documentation, storage, and lawful disposition of evidentiary property. The section currently manages more than 15,000 items.

2025 Property Activity

- Total Property Entered: 4,687 items
- Firearms Collected: 152
- Controlled Substances Collected: 120

In 2025, the section enhanced intake review processes, updated controlled-substance handling standards, strengthened firearm-clearing protocols, and maintained full inventory accountability. Close coordination continues with the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office to support timely forensic analysis and case readiness.

Safety and Operational Readiness

The division also expanded safety measures addressing modern investigative hazards, including additional Naloxone (Narcan) availability, standardized first-aid kits, installation of a firearms clearing barrel, drug-hood certification, updated fentanyl-handling protocols, and reinforced evidence-intake safety procedures.

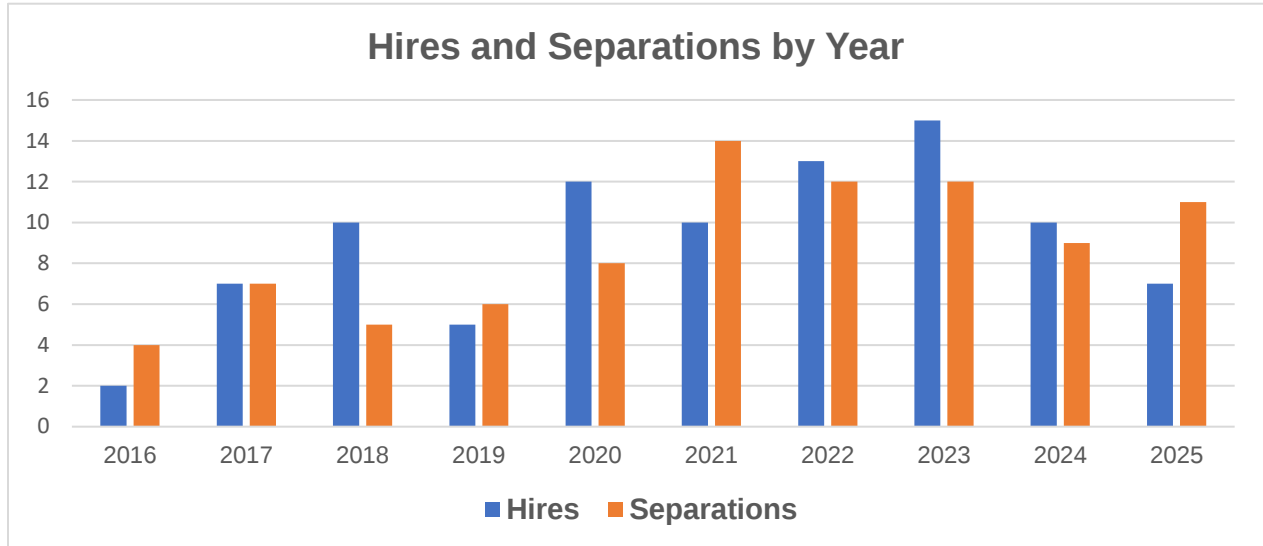
Conclusion

The Investigative Division used external evaluation and internal review to strengthen operational standards and modernize investigative systems in 2025. Through structured case tempo standards, transparent assignment practices, enhanced safety protocols, and strengthened evidence management, the division continues to provide professional, accountable investigative services to the Wauwatosa community.

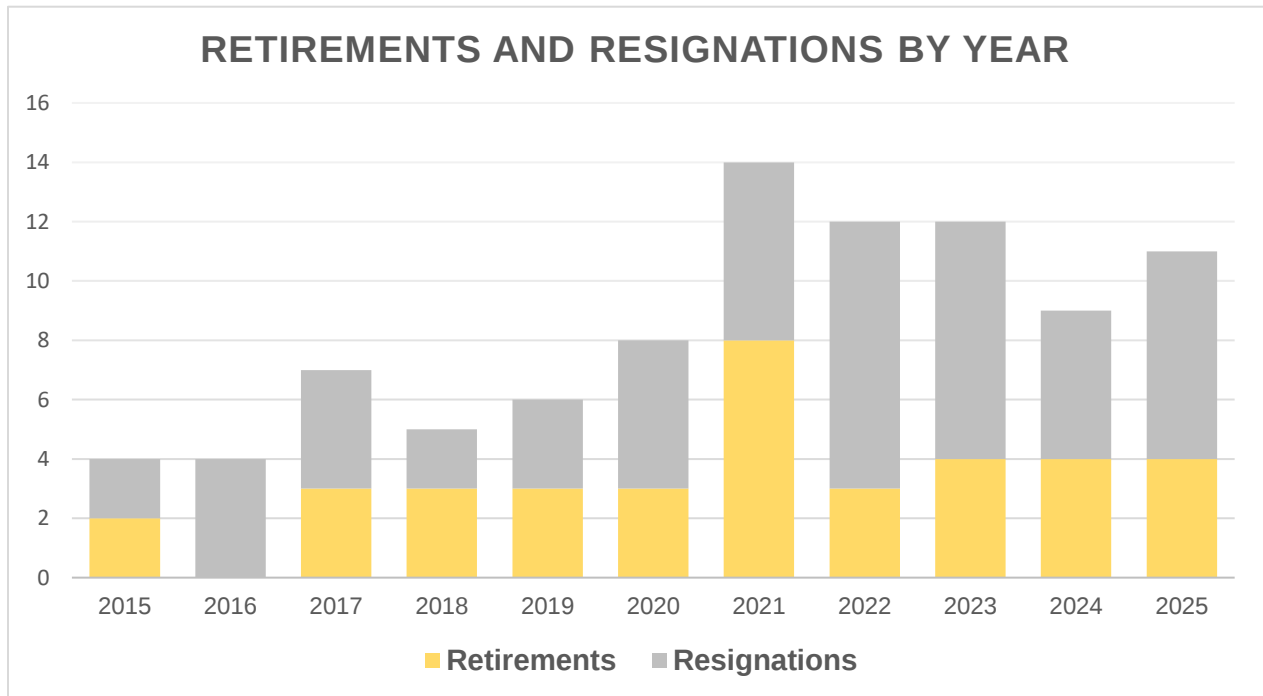


Training & Personnel Division

In 2025, the Wauwatosa Police Department hired 7 new sworn officers. The department had 11 sworn employees depart the agency. The department's authorized strength at year-end was 100 sworn employees. The year began with 97 sworn personnel, and ended with 93.



Of the eleven separations in 2025, four were retirements and seven were resignations.



The Training and Personnel Division maintained its heightened emphasis on conducting police officer hiring processes consistently throughout the year. In 2025, we continued to recognize the strong need to recruit both certifiable candidates and experienced lateral transfer applicants.

We also provided training hours that exceeded the minimum standards set by the Law Enforcement Standards Board. Our instructors invested substantial time and effort into developing lesson plans that reflect evolving trends and address current issues in modern policing.

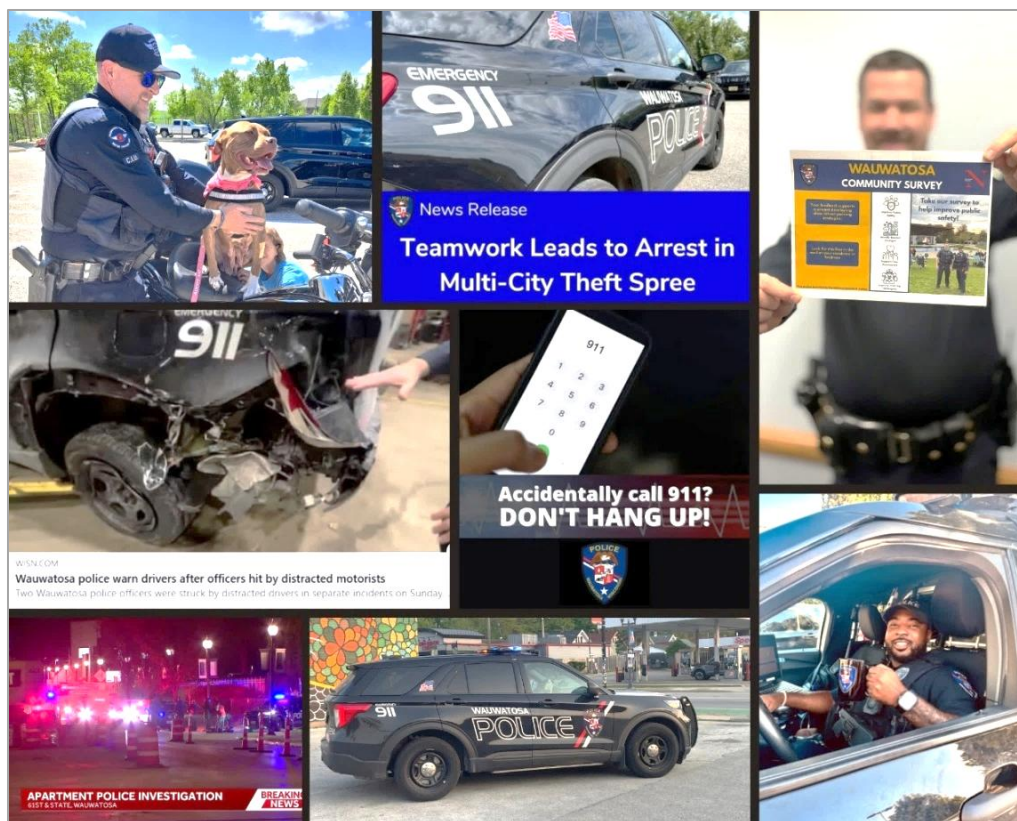
Looking ahead, we will remain focused on meeting our staffing needs by actively seeking the most qualified candidates, including both certifiable and entry-level applicants.



Public Information Office

The Public Information Office (PIO) is responsible for providing clear, timely, and reliable information to the community, media partners, and government officials regarding both routine police activity and emergency events. Through consistent communication, the PIO helps ensure that those who live in, work in, or visit Wauwatosa have access to important public safety information, department updates, and incident-related messaging.

The PIO team uses a range of communication methods to reach the public. This includes maintaining an active social media presence, responding to media inquiries, and sharing information through email, phone, and in-person communication. Content is tailored to provide clear, relevant updates and to support community awareness.



The City of Wauwatosa also operates an emergency notification system that delivers timely alerts for critical events such as severe weather, missing or endangered persons, evacuations, and police or fire activity. These alerts are sent via email, text message, or voice call. Residents are encouraged to register for this free service at www.wauwatosa.net/alert. By serving as a direct link between the Police Department and the community, the Public Information Office promotes transparency, accountability, and strengthens public trust.

The Public Information Office is led by Lt. Abby Pavlik.



Communications Division

The Wauwatosa PD's Communications Division is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the City of Wauwatosa. Telecommunicators work 24 hours a day and 365 days per year akin to patrol scheduling. Communications staffing now consists of nine full-time and three part-time telecommunicators as well as one Dispatch Supervisor and one Dispatch Manager. In 2025, telecommunicators fielded 69,707 phone calls requesting Police, Fire or EMS services. Through those calls, 36,729 call for service assignments were generated for Police response and 10,758 were generated for Fire/EMS.

A significant accomplishment in 2025 was earning the status as an *Accredited Center of Excellence* through Priority Dispatch, the company which oversees the Emergency Medical Dispatch program. To achieve this status, Communications met and maintained 20 specific points of accreditation, including a strict high-compliance standard for medical calls. Two of the top performing Telecommunicators in the medical dispatch category were sent to Orlando, FL to receive this honor.



(L-R) Tia Harris & Rhondi Love



(L-R) Tia Harris & Kerri Jay

On August 10th, Wauwatosa endured a devastating flood causing millions of dollars in damage to businesses and residences and telecommunicators were a crucial piece in the handling of the August flood. As the village and other parts of Wauwatosa and the entire Milwaukee area began flooding, telecommunicators handled not only incidents in Wauwatosa, but in the entire county through activation of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. Units from Racine and Ozaukee counties assisted in calls for service during this time. Telecommunicators involved were honored at a ceremony in Madison for their efforts to steer through that disastrous weekend.

Telecommunicators also engaged in community events and outreach such as Tosa Night Out, educating the public on the use of 911. When not handling calls, they engage in many seasonal activities including dispatch baseball, food/baking contests, valentine decorating for assisted living facilities and console decorating contests.

The Wauwatosa Communications Division continues to adapt and evolve to the needs of the City of Wauwatosa, its residents, as well as changes occurring in the police and fire departments. It continues to serve as one of the first steps of emergency and non-emergency response along with being a lifeline, or "thin gold line," to field responders.



Community Support

Community support remains a central component of the Wauwatosa Police Department's philosophy of community-oriented policing. It encourages officers to work alongside residents, service providers, and neighborhood organizations to prevent crime, address disorder, and strengthen community trust.

Personnel assigned to functions of community support focus on building productive partnerships with citizens, businesses, schools, and civic organizations. Efforts are directed toward identifying emergency concerns, addressing known problem areas, and strengthening collaborative problem-solving throughout the community. These members also coordinate and oversee the many special events that occur throughout the city each year.

Community support responsibilities are carried out by a team that includes supervisory personnel, community patrol specialists, and an administrative support specialist. These personnel help ensure that the Department's commitment to community engagement remains a consistent part of daily police services.



Police Reserves

The Wauwatosa Police Reserve Unit is a group of volunteer men and women from Wauwatosa and the surrounding area that augment the Wauwatosa Police Department throughout the year. Formed in 1942, the Wauwatosa Police Reserve Unit has the distinction of being one of the longest-running in the country.

In 2025, the Reserve Unit ended the year with 19 active members within four platoons. The Reserve Unit has its own command staff consisting of a Captain, Executive Lieutenant, Treasurer, and Secretary. A Lieutenant leads each platoon. The Chief of Police has the final authority to command, train, and supervise the Reserve Unit.

Reserve members are trained to assist the Police Department in emergencies as well as scheduled events including: Fourth of July festivities, homecoming parades, Tosa Tonight Summer Concert Series, bike races, festivals, run/walks, Tosa's Night Out, Mayfair Mall holiday patrols, and the Tosa Village Holiday Tree Lighting.

Each member must commit to a minimum of 75 hours of volunteer service per calendar year. This includes training, monthly meetings, and squad riding activities. The Reserve Unit requires that each member be trained in weapons familiarization, traffic control, and Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT). All members participate in refresher courses each year. Reserve officers have varying motivations for volunteering, including serving the community, obtaining valuable real-life training, and gaining a perspective into law enforcement as a career.

Meetings & Administrative Activities:	315 hours
Training:	334 hours
Events:	888 hours
Squad Riding:	17 hours
Total Hours in 2025:	1,554



TOSA'S NIGHT OUT

This year's Tosa's Night Out (TNO) was celebrated at Hart Park in conjunction with the Tosa Tonight Concert Series on Wednesday, August 6th, 2025. The event brought about 5,000 visitors to Hart Park and the entire evening was a great success.



This annual event showcases the services available to the City and allows many participants to display their areas of expertise to the community. In 2025, the Police Department provided demonstrations by our K-9 and Motorcycle units. All of the outside agencies and participants made the 2025 event very entertaining.

Each year, Tosa's Night Out is organized by the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee and the Wauwatosa Police Department. Together, we strive to bring awareness to safety and crime prevention while continuing to build relationships in the community. We could not have this event if it weren't for our sponsors and volunteers and we are so thankful for their continued support.



Crime Stoppers

Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers, Inc. is a volunteer board dedicated to preventing crime in Wauwatosa by offering cash rewards for anonymous tips that lead to arrests. The board raises funds and approves reward payouts.

Tipsters can report crimes anonymously using the P3 Tips app (available on Apple Store and Google Play) or at www.p3tips.com. Tips can be submitted as text, images, and/or videos. The app uses advanced encryption to ensure complete anonymity. Individuals can also text TOSA to 738477 to receive a link to an anonymous tip form.

Tipsters receive a confidential code to track their tip and potential reward of up to \$1,000. Information is forwarded to the Wauwatosa Police liaison and, if urgent, to a supervisor.

In 2025, Crime Stoppers received 57 tips, leading to three arrests for narcotics, armed robbery, and warrants. Other tips reported included hit & run and suspicious activity. Crime Stoppers paid a total of \$110.00 in rewards.

To take a closer look at the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers please visit www.tosacrimestoppers.org or Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers Facebook page.

Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers Tip Line - 414-771-TOSA (8672)



Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers



Front Office

The front office is the public-facing interface at the Police Department and is responsible for answering the non-emergency telephone line. The desk is open from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. There are two clerks assigned who serve the public and the Department with counter service, data entry, and payment processing.

Records

Records is open from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. There are three clerks assigned to Records. In addition to their internal records duties, the clerks serve the public with counter service and inquiries via telephone, fax, or email. Our Records Team responded to 3,526 records requests in 2025. Additionally, the team reviews every police report for accuracy. Our crime reports are interfaced with the Wisconsin Department of Justice which then provides the data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for tracking.

Reports, including criminal complaints, ordinance violations, etc. are maintained for seven years. Serious crime reports, such as homicides, are kept indefinitely.

Grants

The Police Department utilized funds from several different grant sources in 2025:

Grantor/Grant Name	Award Amounts
Department of Justice	\$88,515
Northeastern University Field-Initiated Action	
Research Partnership (subrecipient)	\$64,595
Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$14,691
Specialized Training	\$9,229
Law Enforcement NARCAN Direct Program	240 doses
Bureau of Transportation Safety	\$19,350
Alcohol Enforcement	\$13,000
Speed Enforcement	\$2,350
Seatbelt Enforcement	\$4,000
Office of National Drug Control Policy	\$11,829
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program	\$11,829
Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company	\$2,500
Law Enforcement Risk Mitigation	\$2,500
WE Energies Foundation	\$2,000
Rewarding Responders	\$2,000



Conclusion

Thank you for investing your time to get to know the Wauwatosa Police Department. We appreciate your ongoing support because increasing public safety is a shared responsibility, and we can't do it alone. In 2026, we will be focusing on our strategic initiatives, while engaging in labor contract negotiations, and implementing the final stages of our organizational restructure. Our goal is to increase our agility while continuing to provide exceptional police service.

We thank the men and women of the Wauwatosa Police Department for their courageous service, their steadfast integrity, and the respect and compassionate service they show to all of our customers.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining our team and leading our community with courage, respect, integrity and compassion please visit www.servetosa.com.

Citizen Police Academy Class of 2025



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





Wauwatosa Police Department
 1700 N. 116th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53226
www.wauwatosa.net/Police
www.ServeTosa.com
www.facebook.com/WauwatosaPD

