

2023



FOX CROSSING **POLICE DEPARTMENT**



ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION:

The Fox Crossing Police Department exists for the purpose of providing an enhanced level of public safety in the community, protecting the constitutional rights of all people, and improving the quality of life of each citizen.



OUR COMMITMENTS:

- ~ Problem solving*
- ~ Openness*
- ~ Providing leadership to the police profession*
- ~ Teamwork*
- ~ Planning for the future*

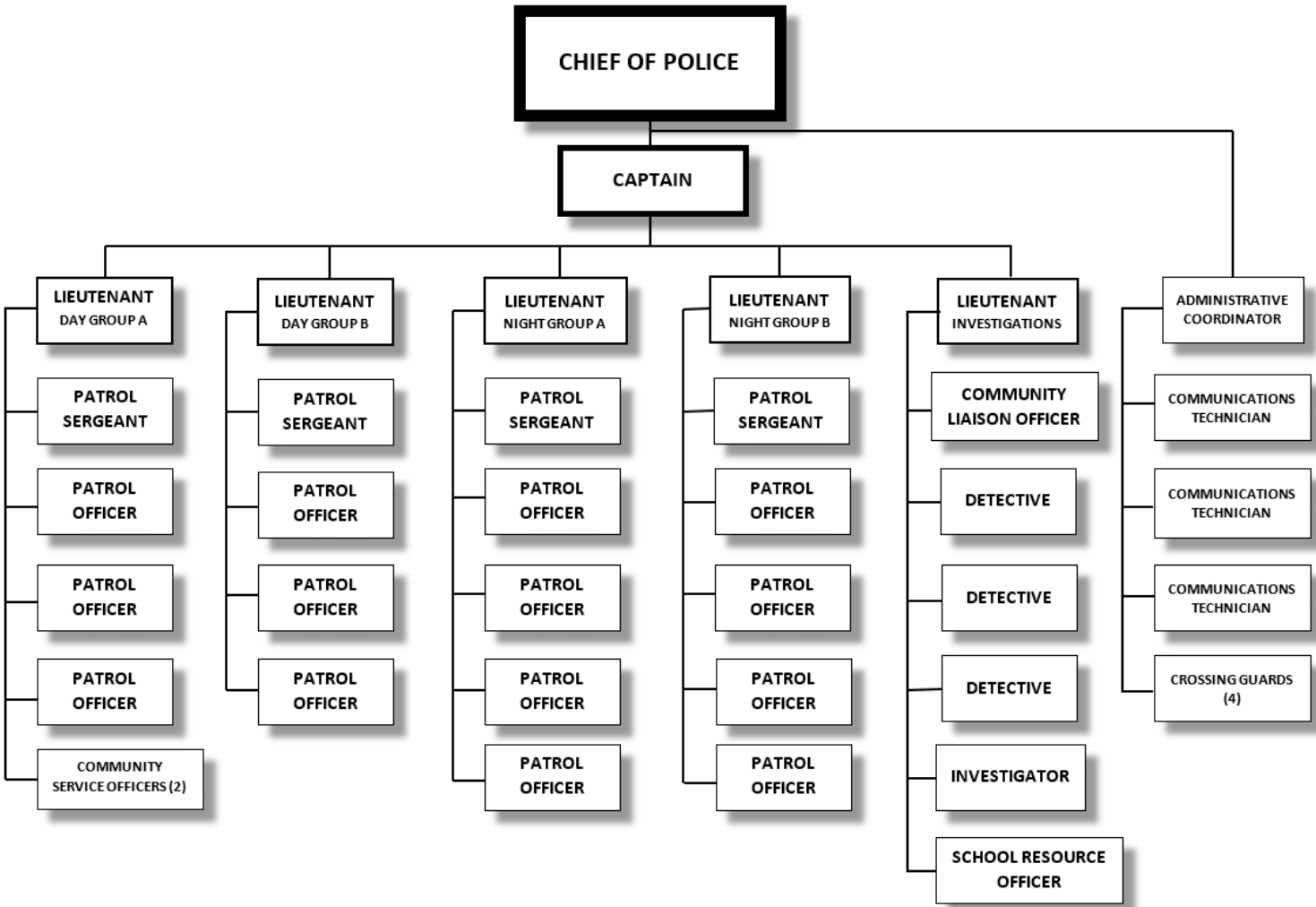
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



FOX CROSSING POLICE DEPARTMENT



CHAIN OF COMMAND CHART



PERSONNEL

(AS OF 12/31/2023)

SWORN

CHIEF OF POLICE – Scott Blashka

CAPTAIN – Tim Callan

INVESTIGATIONS LIEUTENANT – Jason Feucht

PATROL LIEUTENANTS - Rick Leneau, Gary Cutler, Scott Farrell, Corey Haag

DETECTIVES - Megan Hickey, Jeremiah Gustafson, Meredith Birmingham & MEG Unit Investigator

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER - Daniel Wiechman

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER– Clay Davis

PATROL OFFICERS

Scott Boehlen

Gerard Stephanie

Christopher LaSage

Seely Moe

Christopher Brandt

Corey Colburn

Jon Evers

Nathan Jack

Christopher Schreiber

Paul Mittelstaedt

Levi Skeens

Joe Kotloski

Anthony Miorin

Adam Kurczek

Dominick Texeira

Brandon Nagler

CIVILIAN

ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR - Erin LeMahieu

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS - Angela Oppor, Kelly Christman, Karolanne Johnson

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS – Hayden Lauritzen Christopher Brown

CROSSING GUARDS - Jacquelyn Lovejoy, Tori Niemuth, Tara Kelbert, Jeff Mullen, Jessica DeDecker

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK:

Dear Residents and Community Members,

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to present to you the accomplishments of the Fox Crossing Police Department in 2023.

Throughout the year, our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to enhance our department's efficiency and effectiveness. One significant achievement was the reconfiguration of our Communication Technician and Records Department, which involved cross-training our employees and adjusting our operating hours to better serve you, now from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

On April 1st, we assumed primary response responsibilities on I41 and US10 within the Fox Crossing jurisdiction, resulting in over 750 hours of officer's time dedicated to calls on these highways, ensuring the safety of all commuters.

Furthermore, through collaborative efforts between the Village and the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, we successfully negotiated a new four-year union contract for the period of 2024 to 2027.

The completion of the new Neenah High School's construction in Fox Crossing allowed us to establish a School Resource Officer agreement with the Neenah Joint School District and appoint our department's first School Resource Officer, enhancing the safety and security of Neenah High School.

To address the increased demand for investigative support, we allocated resources to add an additional detective, which was promptly filled to meet the growing needs of our community. Additionally, we expanded our community engagement efforts by replacing the Village's Code Enforcement Officer position with a Police Community Service Officer role instead, focusing on hiring students in the Police Science field and extending the scope of their responsibilities. We are proud to have welcomed two part-time CSOs to our team.

Our commitment to enhancing patrol supervision led to the reorganization of our department's structure, creating four patrol sergeant assignments, with the ultimate goal of achieving 24-hour supervisory coverage. With the approval of the Village Board, we will be adding an additional officer position in 2024 to support this initiative.

In anticipation of upcoming retirements within our management team, we initiated succession planning efforts to ensure a seamless transition and continuity of leadership.

We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our community, and we extend our sincere gratitude for your interest in our Annual Report. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Scott Blashka, Chief of Police



2023 PROMOTIONS, HIRINGS, & RETIREMENTS



*Promotion: January 9th, 2023
Lt. Corey Haag*



*New Hire: January 9th, 2023
Officer Adam Kurczek*



*Retirement: March 6th, 2023
Records Clerk JoAnn Richards*



*New Hire: April 24th, 2023
Officer Dominick Teixeira*



*New Hire: May 22nd, 2023
Officer Brandon Nagler*

OUR COMMUNITY



The Village of Fox Crossing lies in the Fox Cities area of Wisconsin, near the northwest corner of Lake Winnebago, about thirty minutes southwest of Green Bay. The Village of Fox Crossing has enjoyed steady growth for many years, and is presently one of the largest villages in Wisconsin with a 2023 population estimate of 19,113.

The Village of Fox Crossing has a service area of 14.12 square miles that includes two major highways that intersect within our boundaries. Approximately 59,500 vehicles utilize the USH 10 Roland Kampo Bridge each day, and up to 104,000 vehicles travel along I-41 every 24 hours. In addition, the Village of Fox Crossing services approximately 125 miles of local roadways.

The Village of Fox Crossing has a variety of zoning types within its jurisdiction, ranging from industrial/commercial to agricultural and residential. The economy of the area is strongly based in the paper industry and the village is home to many large corporations including Kimberly Clark, Outlook Corp., Great Northern Container, Essity, Secura, Community First CU, Miron Construction, Pierce Manufacturing, and many other well-known businesses, just to name a few.



TRAINING HOURS

The State of Wisconsin requires that sworn officers attend a minimum of 24 hours of training annually to maintain their law enforcement certification. *Our officers attended 2,853 total hours of training in 2023. This averages out to approximately 95.1 hours of training per each sworn staff member. Additionally, our civilian staff attended 75 hours of training.*

Examples of the types of training includes both pistol and rifle firearms qualification, along with annual legal updates on new laws and court rulings. Officers also attended a variety of specialized training such as Death Investigation School, FBI-LEEDA Master Public Information Officer, Evidence Technician, Defense & Arrest Tactics Instructor, Firearms Instructor, and many other seminars, conferences, & other online training certifications.



ACCOUNTABILITY

As outlined in our mission statement and commitments, the Fox Crossing Police Department takes great strides to ensure that we maintain a high level of service to our residents, businesses and visitors. The police department maintains several methods of receiving and processing comments concerns, compliments and complaints regarding staff performance.



This can be done by speaking with a supervisor on the phone, completing an online survey, filling out a form at the police station, emailing the department, through direct contact with any supervisor, or by contacting the Fox Crossing Police and Fire Commission. When a report is filed that may indicate a possible violation of department policy, however, the complaint is referred to the supervisor of the employee. The supervisor will gather information regarding the circumstances of the complaint and ensure that it follows through the chain of command.

Regardless of the outcome, the complainant will be contacted and advised of the findings. In 2023, there were **NO citizen complaints** filed against Fox Crossing police staff.

USE OF FORCE

The Fox Crossing Police Department requires an officer to complete a Use of Force report each time an officer uses any type of force, such as: empty hands, intermediate weapon (baton, OC spray, TASER) or lethal force.

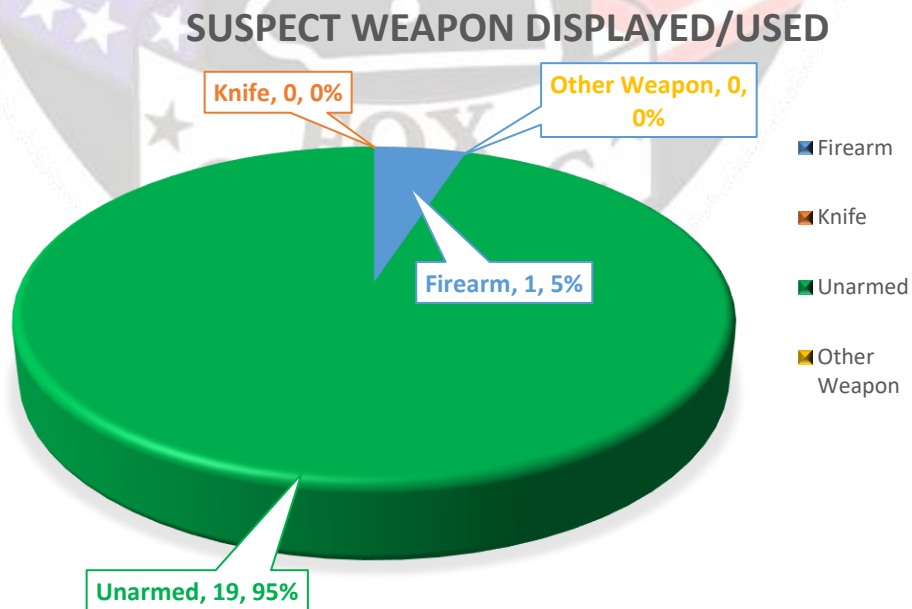
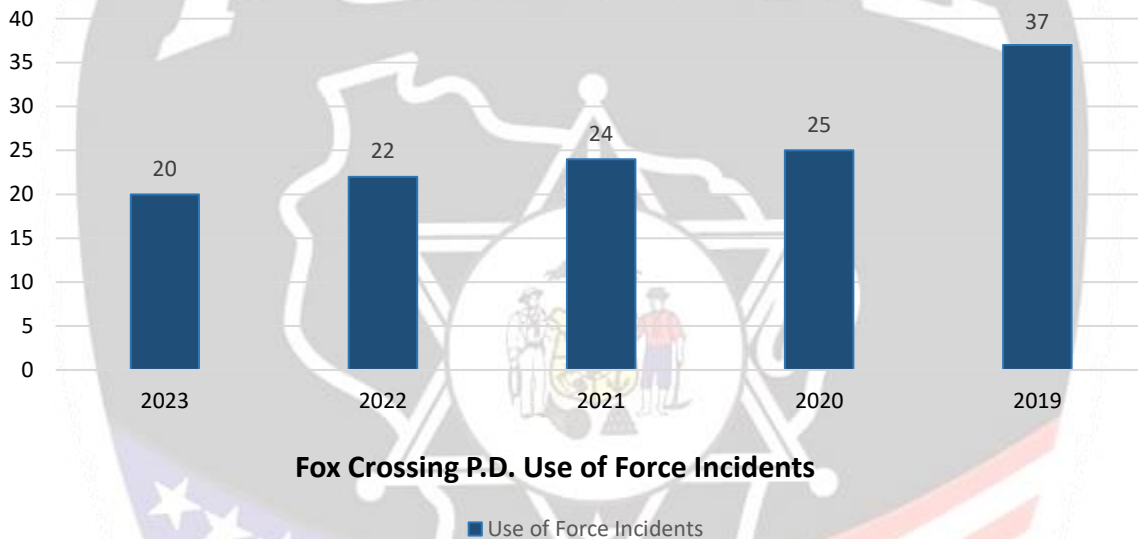
In 2023, the Fox Crossing Police Department reported the Use of Force in twenty (20) separate incidents, while responding and answering calls for service. **With 12,583 total police incidents recorded in 2023, that equates to .16% of all police interactions resulting in a level of use of force.** Each incident is reviewed by a supervisor, trained in Use of Force requirements.



The following pages are a comprehensive analysis of our agency's use of force statistics, including a graph depicting the number of Use of Force reports filed for the last five years, as well as several charts depicting the types of force used, the weapons the suspects used, the report of injury, either visible or claimed, and the number of complaints/short form calls for service throughout 2023:

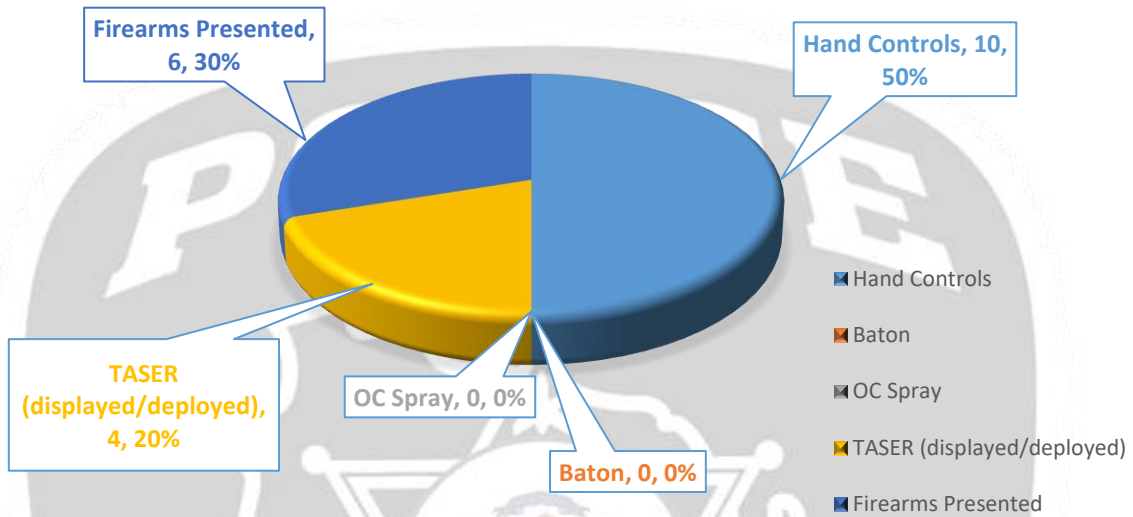
2023 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

Shown below is a graph depicting the number of Use of Force Reports filed for the last five years, along with a pie chart depicting the number and type of weapons that suspects were armed with during 2023 incidents.

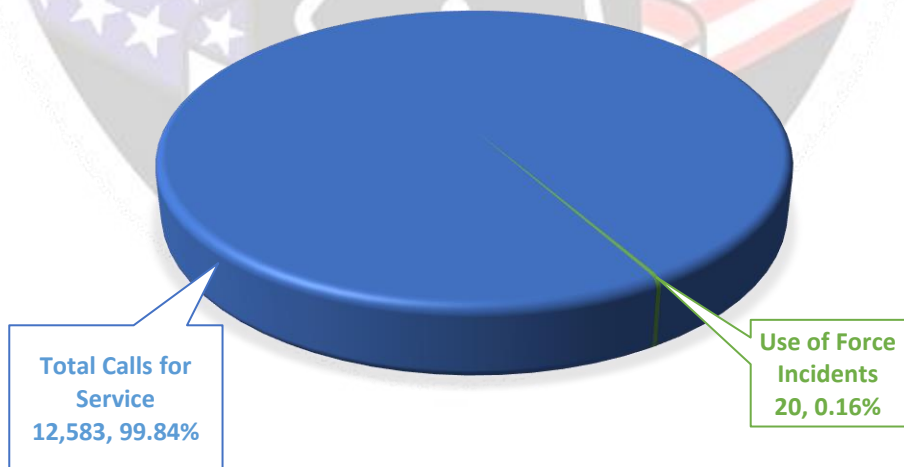


Shown below is a chart depicting the highest level of force the officers utilized to protect themselves and others to effect the arrest during the incidents in 2023.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF FORCE USED



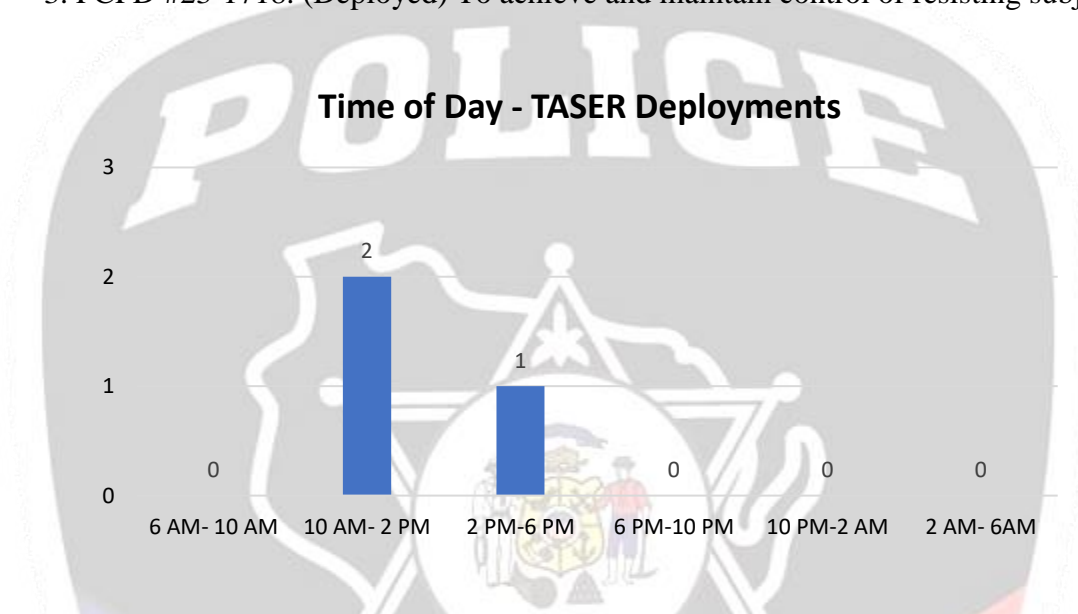
USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS VERSUS TOTAL CALL/COMPLAINTS



TASER DEPLOYMENTS BY OFFICERS

In 2023, officers from the Fox Crossing Police Department **DEPLOYED** (fired cartridge) their TASER three times.

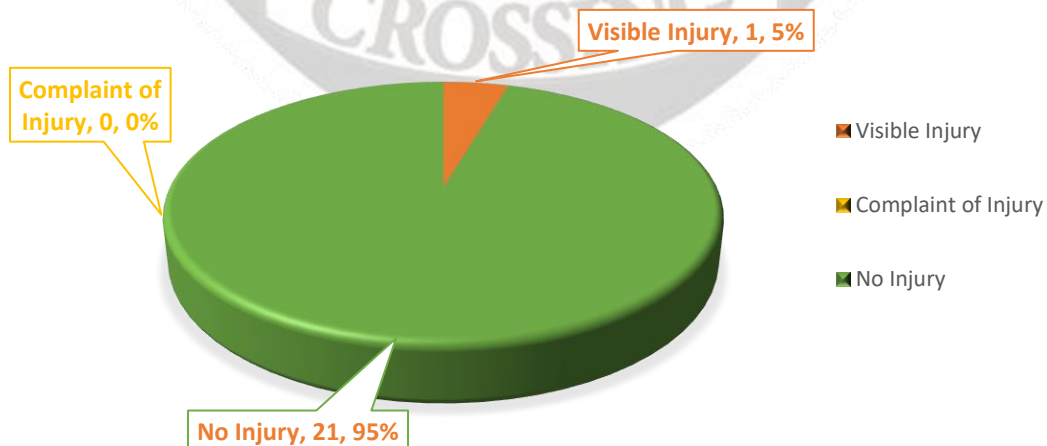
1. FCPD #23-0620. (Deployed) To achieve and maintain control of resisting subject.
2. FCPD #23-1403. (Displayed) To achieve and maintain control of resisting subject.
3. FCPD #23-1718. (Deployed) To achieve and maintain control of resisting subject.



SUSPECT INJURIES

During 2023, out of the 12,586 total police incidents, one suspect was visibly injured out of the 20 incidents where any level of use of force was implemented.

REPORTS OF SUSPECT INJURY



OFFICER INJURIES

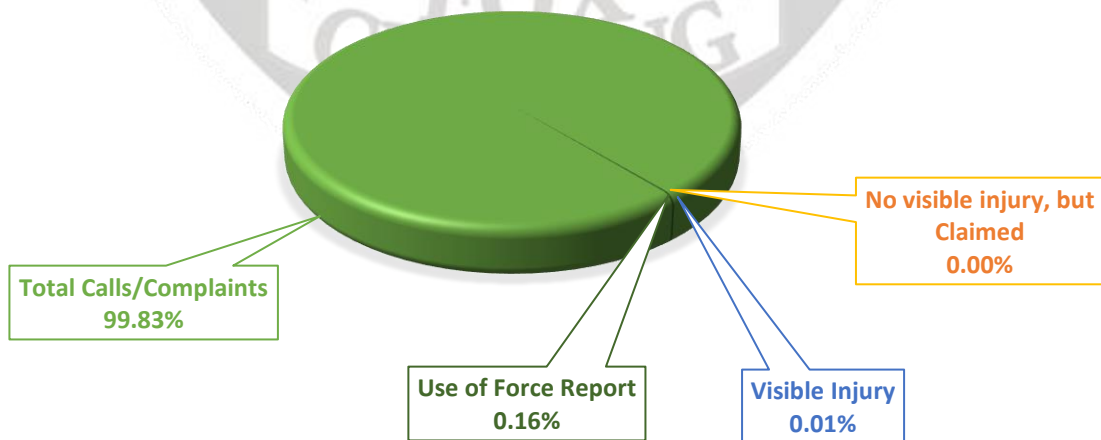
In 2023, there was one (1) incident in which (1) officer was injured, out of the 20 Use of Force reports filed.

1. Complaint # FCPD 23-0620 – While struggling with a resistive subject to maintain control.

The officer was able to return to full duties without any time off from the injury.



NUMBER OF CALLS/COMPLAINTS VERSUS USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS WITH SUSPECT VISIBLE OR CLAIMED INJURIES





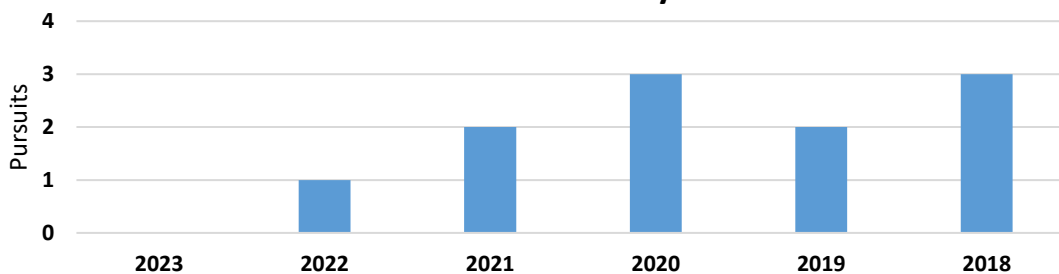
TRAFFIC PURSUITS

Vehicle pursuits can expose citizens, law enforcement officers and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death. Officers must weigh the safety of the public and themselves against their law enforcement duty to apprehend violators of the law when determining whether or not to engage and continue in a pursuit. The Fox Crossing Police Department reviews all pursuits in which officers are involved to ensure that officers follow policy and minimize the risk of pursuit related crashes.

Fox Crossing Police Department sworn officers are required to attend both classroom and practical hands-on emergency vehicle operation biennially. The State of Wisconsin requires law enforcement officers to attend four hours of emergency vehicle operation training biennially. Fox Crossing Police Department sworn personnel completed this requirement in 2021 and will require additional pursuit training in 2023. The training is hosted at Fox Valley Technical College Public Safety Training Center.

There were **NO** reportable pursuits sent to the State of Wisconsin in 2023. However, there were four (4) additional incidents where officers initiated attempts to make a traffic stop on a vehicle and it fled, in which there was no pursuit. Investigative measures were always taken to pursue criminal charges or issuance of a municipal summons to the vehicle owner/operator for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, eluding, and any other observed traffic violations. All four of these incidents yielded citations being issued to the drivers and/or the vehicle owners.

Pursuit Totals by Year

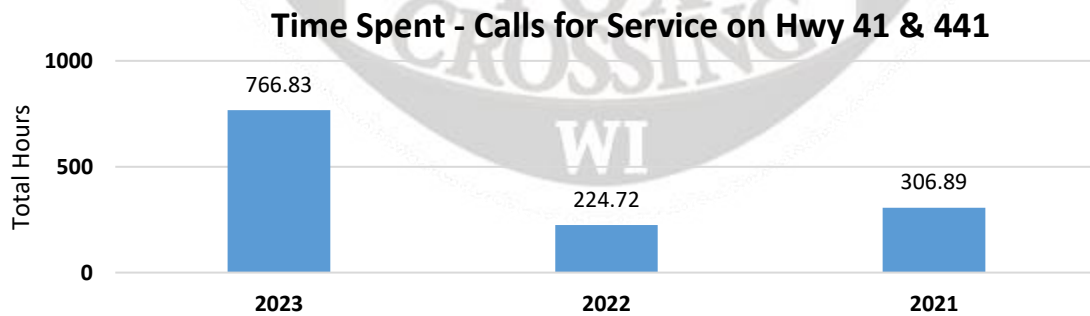




HIGHWAY 41 & 10 INCIDENT RESPONSE

As of April 1st, 2023 The Fox Crossing Police Department took over primary law enforcement response services previously handles by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office. These sections of highway are not unfamiliar to our officers, as they travel these routes that pass through our jurisdiction on a regular basis. The added areas include Interstate 41 from North Street up to the Mike Ellis Memorial Interchange, ending at CTH BB (Prospect Ave). We also service USH 10 from Coldspring Road east over the Roland Kampo Bridge where we share some jurisdiction with the City of Menasha Police Department, up to Oneida St.

As one can imagine, the addition of Interstate and US highways that receive tens of thousands of commuting vehicles daily creates a need for our department to re-allocate our resources and make an adjustment for the increased call volume. Below is a comparison of data extracted from our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that shows the number of total work hours dedicated to responding to incidents such as vehicular crashes, reckless drivers, debris, and traffic stops over the past three years:





PATROL DIVISION

The patrol division is the backbone of the police department. This division is responsible for handling a majority of the emergency and non-emergency calls received each year, along with enforcing traffic laws on the freeways and roadways throughout Fox Crossing.

The Village of Fox Crossing has 16 patrol officers and 5 patrol lieutenants that are assigned to this division. The officers are split among 4 patrol shifts, each with a lieutenant, that provide coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At any given time, there are typically 3-5 officers working each shift, depending on the time of day.

Officers primarily conduct their patrols from police squad cars. The police department utilizes seven patrol vehicles. This has traditionally been the primary means of providing police services, but we have also initiated alternative patrol methods.

Our officers also get out of their patrol cars and will patrol certain areas of the village on foot. These efforts afford the officers the opportunity to interact more freely with the residents outside the confines of a patrol car. Officers can be periodically assigned to a specialized directed patrol as well. This places officers in certain areas of the village due to a high call volume.

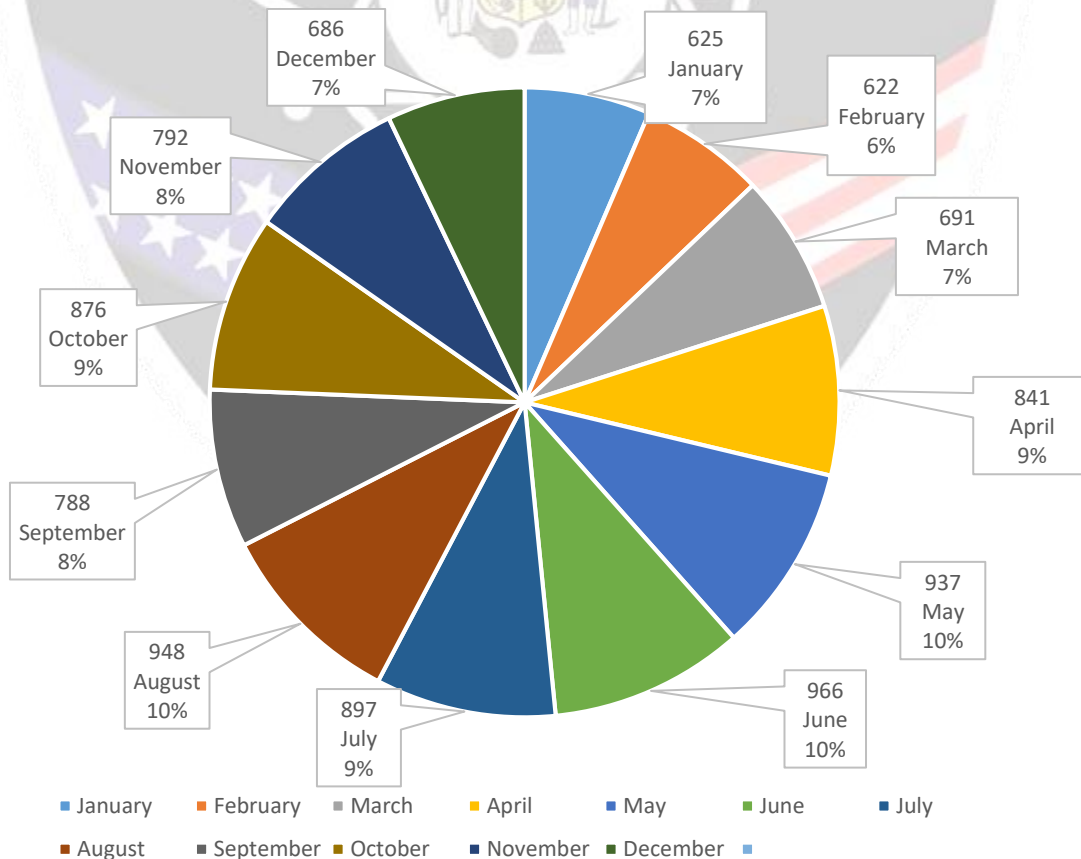
CALLS FOR SERVICE

In Fox Crossing, calls for service are received in a variety of ways. Emergency calls are typically placed through 9-1-1 calls that are answered, screened, and then dispatched through the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office which is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to these emergency calls, citizens can also report crimes in person at the police department or by calling our non-emergency number. These non-emergency calls are fielded during our desk hours Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM by a police communications technician or at our police department service window. Lastly, officers can also self-initiate calls for service should they encounter something while out on their patrols.

TOTAL ANNUAL CALLS FOR SERVICE (excluding traffic stops)				
2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
9,655*	7,465	8,072	7,591	8,000

**This increased statistic may reflect Fox Crossing PD taking over primary response for Interstate 41 and USH 10 from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, beginning April 1st, 2023.*

Calls for Service By Month



SELECT INCIDENT TYPES

Sample Incident Types	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Abandoned Vehicles	73	45	28	20	30
Alarm	232	241	189	193	240
Animal (Barking/Loose/Etc.)	368	349	314	298	367
Civil Matters	56	64	52	53	55
Criminal Damage to Property	63	54	72	66	62
Death	22	23	20	28	21
Disturbance	181	174	172	210	307
Domestic	111	91	56	45	75
Emergency Committal	20	15	17	17	25
Fraud	46	30	45	31	25
Harassment	52	37	58	71	60
Ordinance Violations	265	201	256	174	260
Juvenile	223	143	158	178	225
Lost/Found Property	103	106	102	79	83
Missing Person	5	7	5	4	4
Noise	138	92	96	150	175
Open Door	26	11	10	27	15
Runaway	5	22	38	18	25
Sex Offenses	14	13	12	16	14
Suspicious Incident	254	229	236	211	201
Trespass	45	28	41	32	10
Warrant Arrests	152	177	141	104	125
Weapon	9	4	7	5	11
Welfare Check	527	409	444	378	453

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

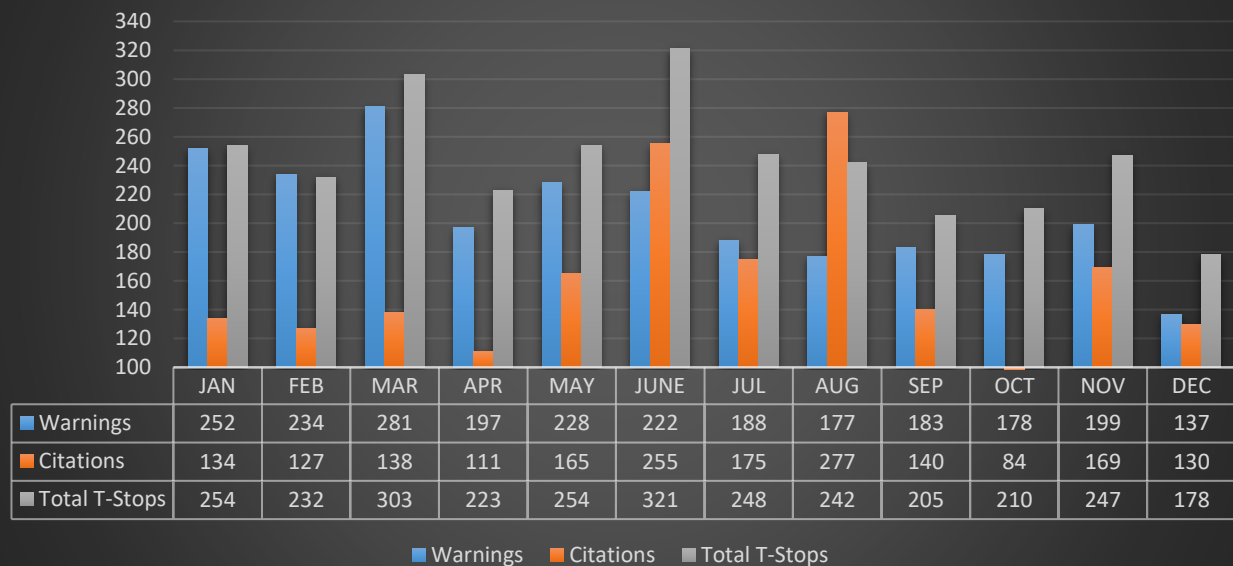
Traffic safety and enforcement is one of the main complaints and concerns we receive from community members. Officers routinely conduct proactive traffic enforcement during their shift as calls for service allow. In 2023, Fox Crossing officers initiated a total of 2,917 traffic stops. Traffic statistics can fluctuate do to the availability of state-funded speeding, OWI, and seatbelt enforcement grants.



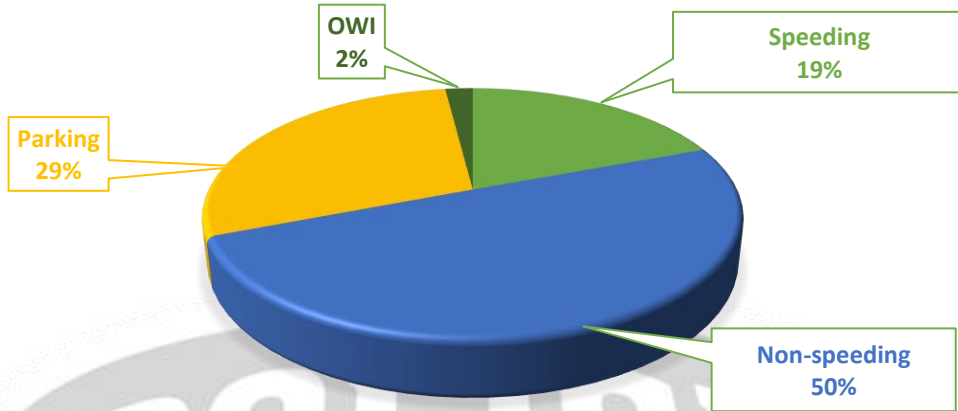
TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED			
	2023	2022	2021
Speeding	533	295	437
Non-speeding	1,379	1,324	1,086
Parking	801	746	727
OWI	55	48	57
Total	2,768	2,413	2,307

TRAFFIC WARNINGS ISSUED			
	2023	2022	2021
Speeding	757	726	700
Non-speeding	1,730	1,526	731
Total	2,487	2,252	1,431

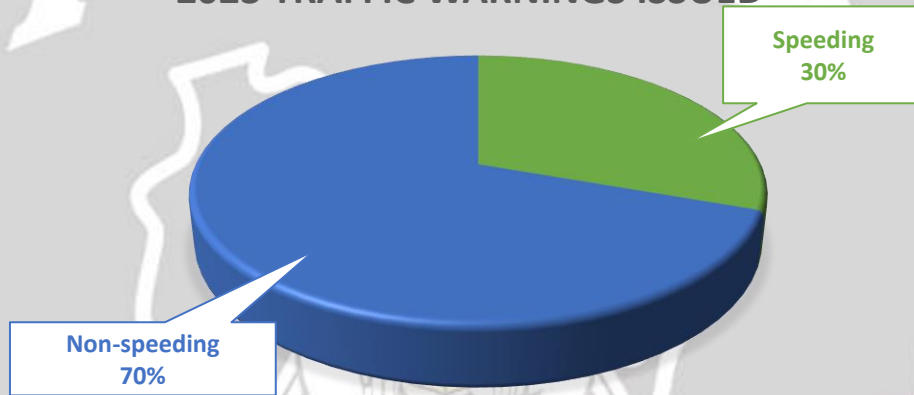
2023 TRAFFIC STOPS BY MONTH



2023 TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED



2023 TRAFFIC WARNINGS ISSUED



CRASH INVESTIGATIONS

By definition, state reportable crashes in Wisconsin are those crashes which are defined by one or more of the three following criteria:

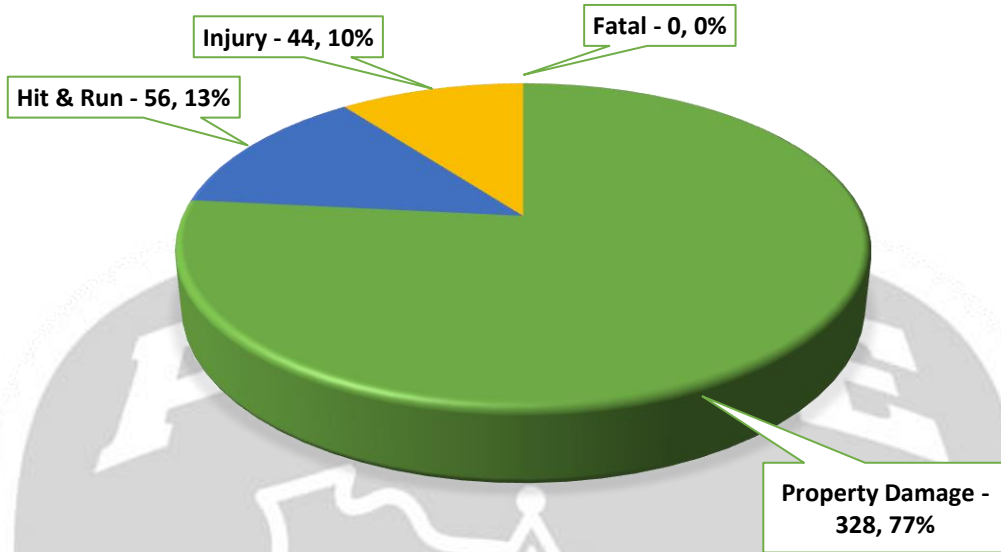
1. Any injury or fatality of a person
2. Property damage in excess of \$1,000
3. Damage to government-owned property to the extent of \$200 or higher

All other crashes which do not meet these criteria are considered a **non-reportable** crash.

TOTAL ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED			
2023	2022	2021	2020
428	320	369	210

2023 CRASH REPORTABILITY	
REPORTABLE	NON-REPORTABLE
368	60

2023 TRAFFIC CRASH TYPE



Note: These higher numbers for 2023 reflect accidents that also occurred on I-41, USH 10, or STH 441 as those highways passing through our jurisdiction are now the primary incident response for the Fox Crossing Police Department, after the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office relinquished primary response to our agency as of April 1st, 2023.

CHRONIC NUISANCES & ABATEMENT

The police department will address any calls for service; specifically the repeat calls to the same property for nuisance-type of activity. These chronic nuisance activities disrupt and threaten the peace, safety, order, aesthetics, and property values of our community and places an undue burden on police services. Violations meeting the definition of a chronic nuisance can include offenses such as loud noise, disorderly people, fighting, damage to property, drug offenses, to name a few. The police department has researched this problem and developed a chronic nuisance program and an ordinance aimed at not only reducing these calls, but increasing our communication with landlords and property owners to work collaboratively to resolve many of these concerns.

The ordinance allows for three nuisance calls resulting in an arrest or citation on a property within a year. The police department will notify property owners and landlords of these calls and begin working with them to curb future calls. If a property were to receive three such calls, we will meet with the property owner to explain the concern and the need for assistance in combating the problem(s). If the property owner fails to or refuses to provide any assistance, the police department can issue a citation for maintaining a public nuisance and bill the property owner for any future nuisance calls to that property.



Abatement Type	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Drugs	0	0	0	2	0
Nuisance	3	1	4	9	5

ARRESTS

Arrest data is taken from the Uniform Crime Reports and, for their purposes, a juvenile is identified as a person younger than eighteen. However, presently in Wisconsin, a seventeen-year-old is treated as an adult for criminal purposes. There are also different types of arrests that a law enforcement officer can make.

Type	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Adult State Charges	237	336	376	359	402
Juvenile Referrals	28	79	83	73	105
Village Summons	306	219	235	235	278
Total Arrests	571	634	694	667	785

- **Prosecution requests** are requests to the district attorney's office for state charges, which can result in a punishment of incarceration in jail or prison, probation and/or monetary fines.
- **Juvenile referrals** are requests to the juvenile authorities for charges and can result in a punishment of incarceration in a secure detention facility and/or juvenile supervision through a case worker.
- **Village summons** are local ordinance violations and can result in a punishment of community service, monetary fines, and/or restitution.

CRIME REPORTING

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which began in 1929, collects information on the following crimes reported to law enforcement: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

The UCR Program also maintains a database of arrests and clearance rates of law enforcement agencies. Clearance rates reflect the percentage of those cases that are cleared or solved. A new system of categorizing and tracking crime rates, called Wisconsin Incident-Based Reporting System (WIBRS) is actively utilized by our agency, and we continue to be a leading agency in the state for prompt compliancy.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Criminal investigations are an important aspect of the services that we provide. Each Fox Crossing police officer has received training to conduct thorough and complete investigations. Officers routinely conduct their own investigations and frequently resolve the issue with no additional assistance. Those investigations that require additional, specialized, or technical assistance can be assigned to the Investigation Division.



The Fox Crossing Police Department Investigation Division consists of one lieutenant, two detectives, one MEG drug unit investigator and one community liaison officer. The Investigation Division is responsible for investigative follow-up and criminal case preparation related arrest and prosecution of persons suspected of committing crimes.

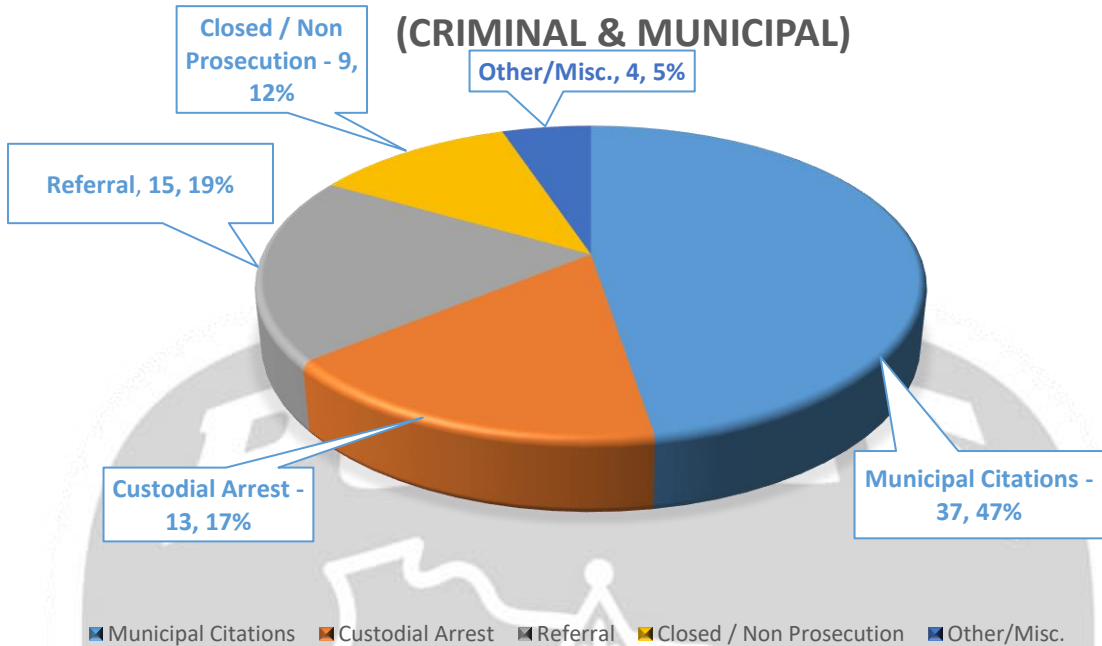
The Investigation Division works closely with the Winnebago County District Attorney’s Office, as well as many other agencies both locally and nationally. Our investigators meet regularly with other Fox Valley agencies to share and obtain information regarding criminal activity in and around the Village of Fox Crossing and the entire Fox Valley region. The information shared at these meetings has proven invaluable and has directly resulted in crimes being solved not only here in the village but throughout the area.

CRIME BY THE NUMBERS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
<i>Violent Crime</i>	Crimes Against Persons			
Murder	0	0	1	0
Sexual Assault	10	5	5	2
Robbery	0	0	1	1
Aggravated Assault	12	5	13	10
Total Violent	22	10	20	13
Clearance Rate %	86%*	100%	88%	88%
	2023	2022	2021	2020
<i>Property Crime</i>	Crimes Against Property			
Burglary	11	24	18	22
Theft	134	136	138	99
Auto Theft	9	15	11	8
Simple Assault	44	50	54	87
Total Property	198	225	221	216
Clearance Rate %	57%*	41%	46%	45%

**In comparison, the United States national average clearance rates (for 2022) were 36.7% for violent crimes and 12.0% for property crime!*

2023 FCPD DRUG ARRESTS* (CRIMINAL & MUNICIPAL)



DRUG INVESTIGATIONS

Many of the people arrested indicate the reason for committing property crimes is to support their drug habit. Major drug investigations in the village are conducted by the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG). The MEG Unit consists of 13 officers from police and sheriff's departments in Winnebago, Outagamie, Calumet and Fond du Lac counties. We have one investigator assigned to this unit since it formed in 1988.

**Drug offenses are a unique category for statistical comparison. Possession offenses typically result from the initiative and investigation of an officer at another incident, oftentimes a traffic stop. Arrests for drug sales generally stem from investigations conducted by the Lake Winnebago Area MEG Unit as a result of a tip or investigative lead, which is an agency that operates separately from Fox Crossing PD. Their investigations and arrests that occur within our jurisdiction are not represented in this data.*

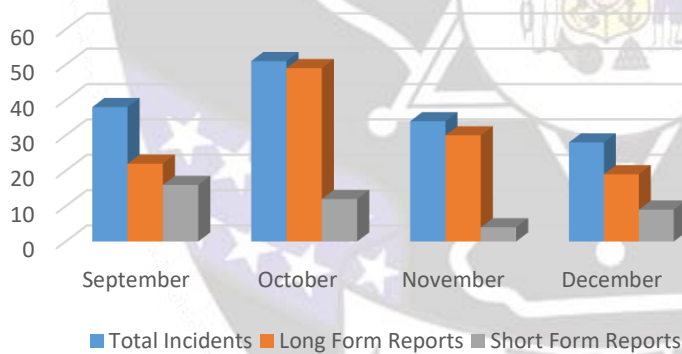


SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

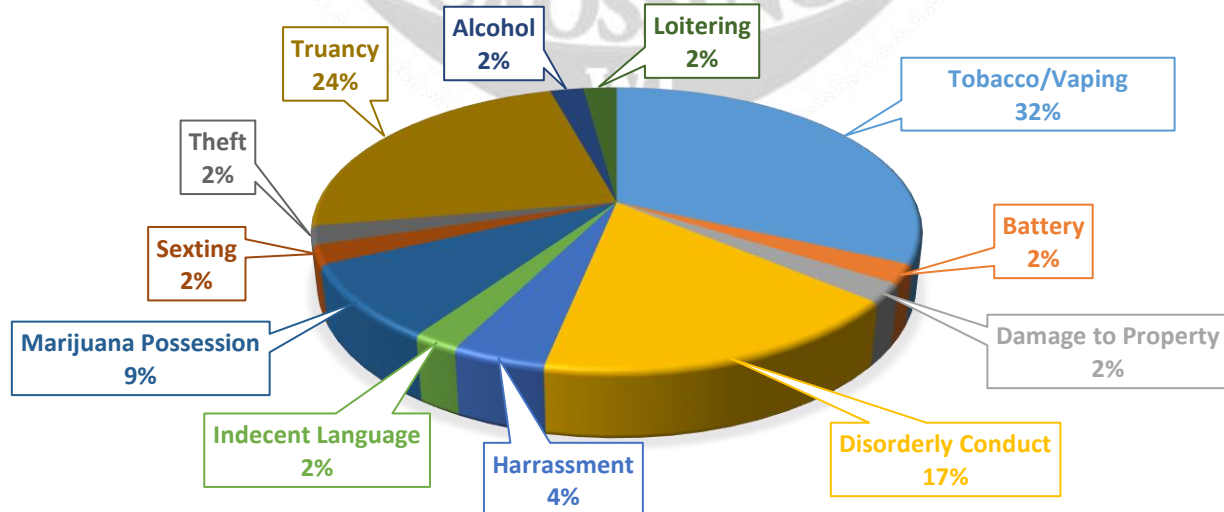
The completion of the new Neenah High School's construction in Fox Crossing allowed us to establish a School Resource Officer agreement with the Neenah Joint School District and appoint our department's first School Resource Officer, enhancing the safety and security of Neenah High School. Fox Crossing PD and the NJSD selected Officer Clay Davis to fill the important role of SRO at the school, which maintains a student body size of nearly 2,000 and an additional 200 faculty & staff.

The FCPD and the Neenah Joint School District are dedicating to taking a proactive stance in addressing poor conduct and criminal behavior occurring on school property. During the 4 months in 2023 when school was in session, there were a total of 164 calls for service for the high school, most of those incidents being self-initiated by SRO Davis with 122 of them requiring a police report. A total of 54 municipal summons were issued during this time to students for various infractions, as well as countless hours of mediation, counseling, and positive interactions in the hallways and at sporting events. Charts to aide in visualizing this data are below:

2023 NHS POLICE INCIDENTS BY MONTH



MUNICIPAL SUMMONS ISSUED @ NHS



EVIDENCE ROOM & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The importance of this function in a law enforcement agency cannot be overstated. The agency has a fiduciary and legal obligation to store and protect items of evidence and property in its custody, and equally important, an obligation to legally restore property to the rightful owner as soon as practical, or dispose of the property in a legal manner.

In 2020, the Fox Crossing Police Department implemented the **BEAST** Evidence Management Software to create a more efficient means to enter, manage, and audit our property room. This new software allows officers to generate bar-coded property labels for evidence that they turn in, move property to specific storage locations, print owner notification letters, generate evidence submission requests for proper analysis at the Wisconsin State Crime Lab, create randomized item audit lists, and many other functions in a fraction of the time that our previous system could not do.

The responsibility of head evidence custodian falls on our Community Liaison Officer, with the assistance of the Investigations Division. The property room receives two random audits a year.



The Fox Crossing Police Department had **497** individual items of property or evidence logged into the BEAST Evidence Management System in 2023.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Although a major function of the police department is responding to calls for service and investigating crimes, the Fox Crossing Police Department firmly believes in being actively involved in the community.

Community policing is a concept that saw its origins in England back in the early 1800's. Sir Robert Peel, known as the "Father of Modern Policing," is credited with establishing the modern concept of the police force. He realized that a partnership must exist for the success of the community and the police. Participation by all facets of the community is critical for real problem solving that leads to lasting solutions. A famous quote from Peel is, "The police are the public, and the public are the police".

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Officer Wiechman is our current Community Liaison Officer and participated in several opportunities of community outreach in the form of special events and presentations on a variety of topics. Subject matter included safety presentations ranging from scam awareness, civilian response to active threats, emerging drug trends, de-escalation, crime prevention through environmental design, and other topics.

In response to several active threat incidents in the United States and here in Wisconsin, we work proactively with area businesses, schools, churches & community members to assist them with crisis planning and offer suggestions to improve the security at their buildings. This has become a collaborative project with other Fox Valley law enforcement agencies. All of these department's community liaison officers work as a team when conducting these free security and risk assessments.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a program to assist neighborhood members in working together with the police department to reduce crime by reporting suspicious activity to police and share that information with their neighbors. The purpose is to have as many neighbors watching after each other's property as if it were their own. Neighbors are asked to be the extra 'eyes and ears' for the police, as they know what is normal for their neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch can be a successful anti-crime tool and the least expensive program in the country to help create safe, pleasant and livable communities.

In 2023, signage for inactive Neighborhood Watch groups were removed, and outdated signage was replaced. There are several registered Neighborhood Watch groups in Fox Crossing; however, there are only a handful of organized neighborhoods that faithfully meet and communicate regularly. If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program, reach out to Officer Wiechman.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. Fox Crossing Police Department hosted our annual National Night Out event at Palisades Park in 2023, providing food trucks, “Cornhole w/ a Cop”, inflatables, Star Wars characters, TV & movie replica cars, and the annual family-favorite tradition... the neighborhood kids vs. police kickball game!



2023 was another amazing & fun year of community outreach in Fox Crossing. Here is a small sample of photos to prove it!





MEDIA RELATIONS: TRADITIONAL & SOCIAL

Even though we would much rather personally connect with the community through public events and presentations, we understand the value and power of traditional media and social media to reach a much larger audience. Our Community Liaison Officer also serves in the role of our Public Information Officer (PIO) and handles most media relations activities.



For a number of years, the police department has maintained a great working relationship with the local media. In 2023, we continued our relationship with local television news stations and also worked on proactive and preventative stories with not only the local television stations, but also print and radio outlets too.

We also maintain an active presence on social media with pages on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Social media helps assist the department in distributing timely and emergent information to the public. It can be used as a tool to solve crimes and helps the department connect with the community by promoting conversation and "humanization of the badge". The use of social media has been a great relationship building opportunity and has allowed the department to connect with others in a way that we had not been able to before.

Facebook was an effective crime fighting tool for us in 2023. There were several instances where we had shared surveillance photos of suspects in thefts and were able to identify them through the help of our followers. Our Facebook presence is also steadily growing as we continue to share frequent, engaging posts that our audience reacts to. **Our social media presence continues to expand and has grown by approximately 7% in 2023, from 17,779 followers to 19,090 strong by the end of the year (FYI, nearly the same # as our 2023 village population of 19,113!).**



SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

The Fox Crossing Police Department's Communication and Records Division is open to the public typically from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

The Communications Division is the first point of contact the public has with the police department. Communication Technicians are the employees who answer the public's phone calls and greet those that come into the lobby. In addition to serving the citizens of the village, the Communications and Records Division provides support to our sworn personnel. The division monitors cameras placed in and around the municipal complex, and routinely provides searches of Federal, State, and local databases to assist officers with locating information that is pertinent to their cases and investigations.

The Communications and Records Division is responsible for maintaining the information that is entered into these systems. Information is entered into local, State, and Federal databases, and must be done so in accordance with various laws and system regulations. These entries include missing persons, stolen and recovered articles and vehicles, and arrest warrants.

The Communications and Records Division is also responsible for aiding with the information entered into our Records Management System, including the scanning of any attachments to a report. Any incident that involves an officer's response and investigation typically will require that officer to generate a report. In 2023, the Fox Crossing PD generated **3,072 complaints** requiring an incident report, including **2,927** additional supplemental narratives submitted by our officers. Our Records Division also responded to **700** open records requests and conducted **456** background checks!



HONOR GUARD

In 2010, the department formed an honor guard to represent not only the police department, but the community at formal events both here in the village and around the state. The unit added another officer in 2016 and was comprised of one lieutenant and seven patrol officers. As of 2022, the Honor Guard has evolved to one officer appointed to the role of Honor Guard Commander, with six additional officers on the team. The Fox Crossing Honor Guard jointly trains with other agencies as well, since many events are attended by various neighboring departments. In 2023, the honor guard provided services at several events, including Police Week in Madison, WI and a commemorative Veteran's Day event.



SWAT TEAM

The Fox Crossing Police Department has partnered with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department to provide assistance for any tactical situations in our community. We have two officers that are assigned to the Winnebago Sheriff's Department SWAT team.

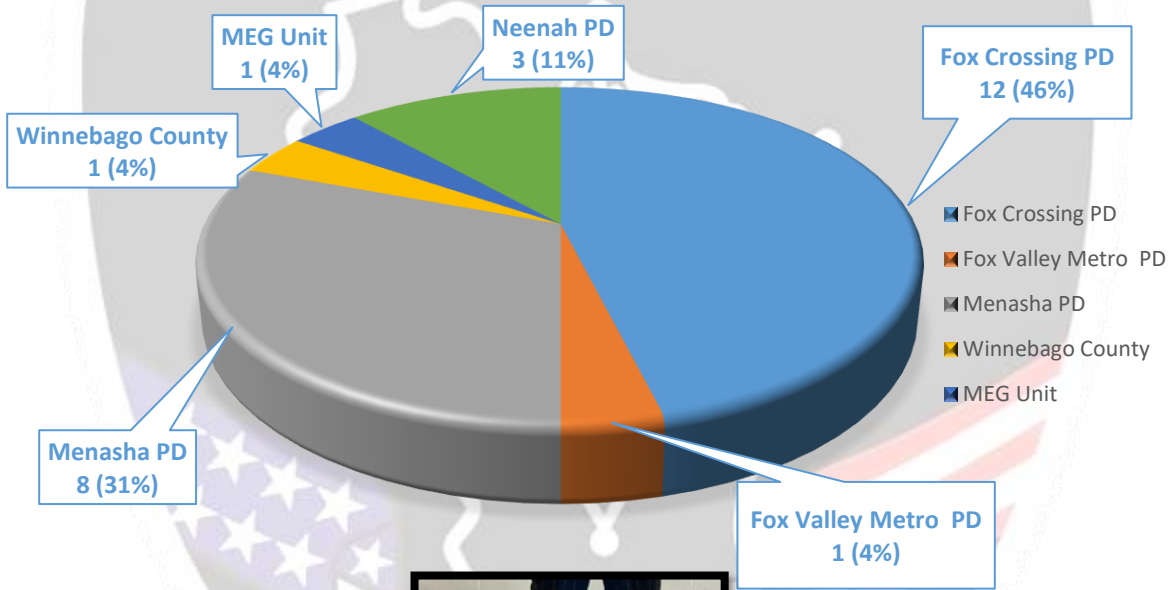
K9 PROGRAM

Our K9 program started in 2017 and has proven to be an invaluable tool when conducting narcotics detection, article searches, tracking, and apprehension. In 2023, K9 Hans and his handler Lt. Haag had 26 total call-out deployments. These were either requests from our own agency, or assisting other departments under mutual aid agreements. The charts below are a summary of deployments that involved K9 Hans.



Drug Type	Quantity (grams)
Marijuana	16.7
Cocaine	3.1
Methamphetamine	36.7

MUTUAL AID REQUESTING AGENCIES



CODE COMPLIANCE

Law enforcement is more than just responding to a call, but also gauging the public's concerns with problems in their community. We find the areas that tend to be of great concern involve quality of life issues such as junked vehicles, traffic problems, and ignored properties. When compared to other community concerns that rank lower, such as gang activity, drugs, or violence, one could surmise that 'life is good' in Fox Crossing.

There is a crime theory called "Broken Windows" that compares a lack of property maintenance to increased criminal activity and mischief. One thing that we can all practice is to be considerate of one another and maintain our property so that it does not become unsightly, and to keep our noise at an acceptable level. Property maintenance goes a long way to reducing crime on our neighborhoods and community.

Our Community Service Officer Program has two part-time, non-sworn positions and they are responsible for the enforcement of many of the village municipal codes. There were **131** cases that the CSOs investigated and generated incident reports for in 2023. A majority of these cases were for junked and abandoned motor vehicles, unsightly debris, long grass, and other public nuisances.



HOW DO WE COMPARE?

Mathematical formulas can be used to break down the numbers and put communities on a level playing field (typically per 1,000 residents). Online UCR data allows us to compare different cities and counties throughout Wisconsin as well.

CRIME RATES (using 2022 National & WI UCR statistics)*			
Community	Population 2022	Violent Crime ¹ Rate per 1,000	Non-violent Crime ² Rate per 1,000
USA	333,287,557	3.79	19.58
Wisconsin	5,895,908	3.98	14.58
Fox Crossing (2023)	19,113	1.15	10.35

- ¹ Uniform Crime Reporting categories for violent crimes include: Homicide/Manslaughter, Rape, Aggravated Battery, & Robbery
- ² Uniform Crime Reporting categories for non-violent crimes include: Simple Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Vehicle Theft, Arson, & Human Trafficking
- *Estimated crime statistics are based on data received from 11,794 of 18,806 law enforcement agencies in the USA in 2022.

CRIME TRIANGLE

The Crime Triangle theory states that in order for a crime to occur, **three** elements must be present: *an offender with the ability to commit the crime; a desired victim or target; and the opportunity to commit the crime.* Based on this theory, crime can be reduced by removing any one of the three elements. Most crime reduction strategies utilize a combination of approaches to achieve this goal. The easiest way is to reduce the opportunity. Often something as simple as locking our car door or garage door can deter the potential criminal.





FOX CROSSING

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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