

Fort Morgan Police Department



2024 Annual Report



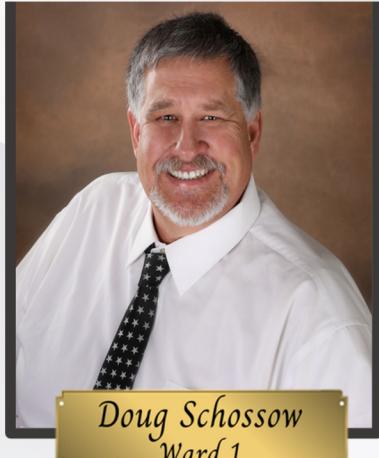


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City Council



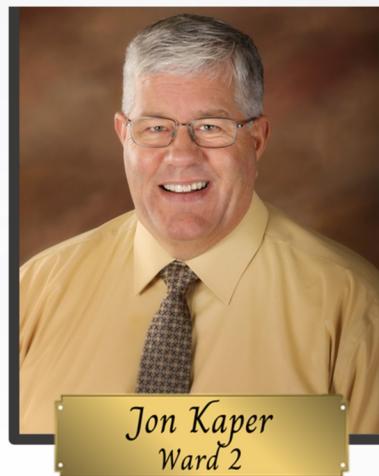
Doug Schossow
Ward 1



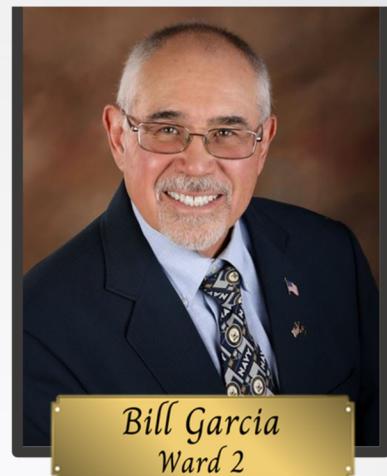
Jeff Morford
Ward 1



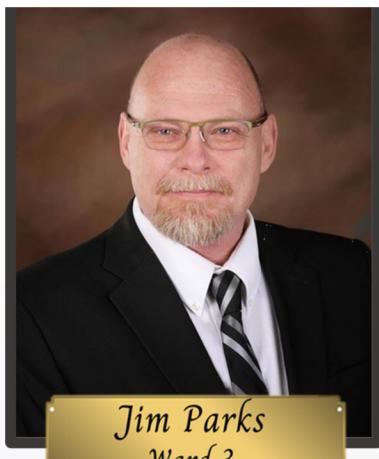
Kevin Lindell
Mayor



Jon Kaper
Ward 2



Bill Garcia
Ward 2



Jim Parks
Ward 3



Loren Boyett
Ward 3

Chief's Message

The Fort Morgan Police Department strongly believes in providing effective, efficient, and professional police service to all members of the community. To do so, we have had to adapt to many changes within our city as we continue to grow, bring in new cultures, and see generational changes for our people through technology and other changes in our society. Laws and political climates evolve as a constant reminder that we must adapt to meet our goals. All these changes create challenges for our staff who work hand in hand with community members, to maintain a longstanding tradition of excellence in policing. Initiatives based on bringing the police and community together, working for a common goal through the inclusion of all thoughts and ideas to find innovative ways to build a culture of service to the community have come in many forms.



Despite many calls that challenged each employee's patience, empathy, and professionalism, our staff remained committed to providing excellent service to those we serve. They worked, diligently, with members of the community to keep the evil at bay and positively represented the community as proud members of the Fort Morgan Police Department.

Several initiatives designed to interact with the community in a positive way and to provide transparency of the actions of this department were in place in 2024. Chat with the Chief is one event that takes place each quarter to interact with community members and to hear their concerns. Other events such as the BBQ with the Blue were a great success and brought our community together. The police department also participated in working with the transient population to look for solutions to this societal issue that has begun to plague Fort Morgan.

Aside from all of the public interactions, our staff did excellent work in catching those responsible for committing crimes and working with those that we often see demanding more resources from our staff. The mentally ill, homeless, and those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction took up a great deal of time and resources. These issues seem to be growing exponentially, yet our staff has remained empathetic and helpful to ensure the safety and dignity of all who suffer such problems.

Our focus on training and improving our staff capabilities continues to be at the heart of what we believe creates a trusting relationship with our community. Highly trained staff that believe in treating everyone with respect and de-escalation at the forefront of every call plays a major role in our success. In 2024, the Fort Morgan Police Department spent over 3,087 hours of training outside of the in-service training that is required of our staff. \$24,991.02 of the cost of this training was recovered through the POST Training Reimbursement grant, while an additional \$3,083.31 was paid by POST for the attendance of one officer at the police academy.

I am proud of the men and women of the Fort Morgan Police Department who devote their time and talents to serve our community. The dedication of these staff members is greatly appreciated and directly impacts our ability to make Fort Morgan a great place to live and raise a family. Of course, without the support of those on the City Council, we would not have the support that is needed to succeed. Together, we are making a difference in the community.



MISSION

Collaborating with our community to promote safety and build trusting relationships.

VISION

To be a source of pride for citizens and a leader in our law enforcement community known for our professionalism, integrity, and service to the people of Fort Morgan.

VALUES

Fair

Mindful

Professional

Dependable

Office of Chief of Police



Loren G. Sharp
Chief of Police



Steven Brown
Deputy Chief



Kevin Miller
Operations
Commander



Jared Iungerich
Support Services
Commander



Michelle Miller
Administrative
Assistant



Palmer Anguiano
Sergeant



Kevin Campbell
Sergeant



Wayne Campbell
Sergeant



Caleb Creech
Sergeant



Joe Hochanadel
Sergeant



Bobby Baquera
CEO



Lisa Lebsok
CEO



Amanda Robinson
CEO



Belen Dominguez
Records
Technician



Stephanie Harman
Records
Technician



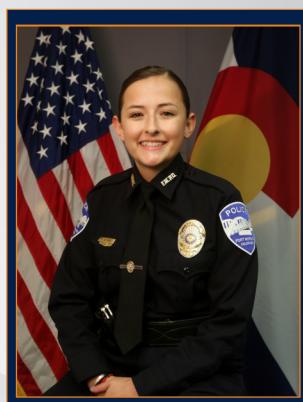
Mary Holt
Records
Technician



Officers



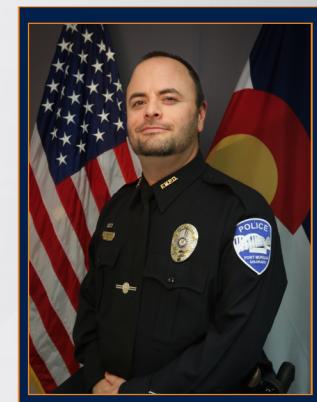
Henry Altman
Patrol Officer



Kasandra Altman
Patrol Officer



Anthony Alvidrez
Patrol Officer



William Bencomo
Detective



Anthony Chaparro
Corporal



Sara Cummings
Corporal



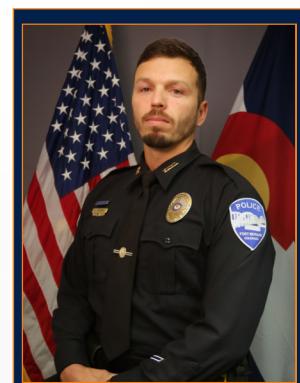
Tekiah Dabbs
Patrol Officer



Tony Gagliano
SRO



Cameron Gonzales
Patrol Officer



Brian Herrera
Corporal



Spencer Hogan
Patrol Officer



Franky Loera
Patrol Officer



Officers



Zachary Lunog
Patrol Officer



Alex Mai
Patrol Officer



Tim Malone
SRO



David Marquez
Detective



Marcos Montalvo
Corporal



Tyler Price
Corporal



Dusty Quick
Officer



Jon Renteria
Officer



Kaden Shuttleworth
Detective



Nicholas Skiles
Patrol Officer



Ted Thyne
Detective



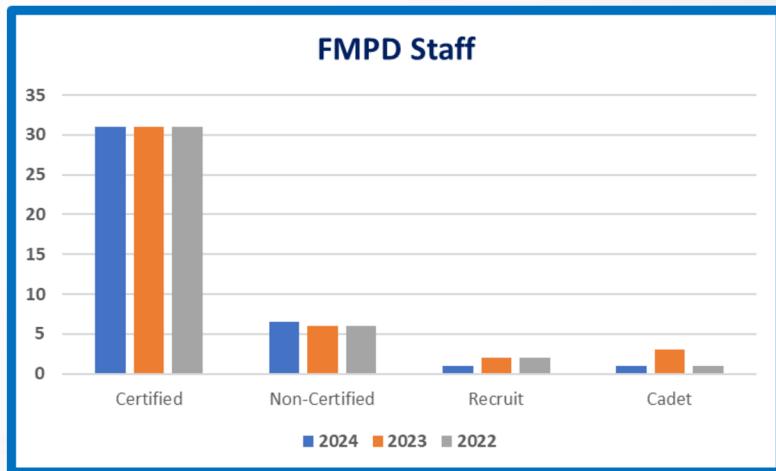
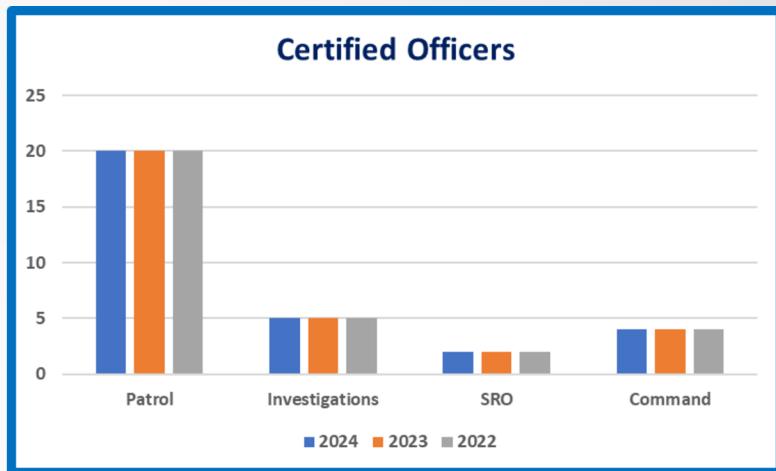
Leo Uribe
Patrol Officer

Staffing Breakdown

The staff makeup of the Fort Morgan Police Department involves a total of 40 employees. 31 sworn officers and another officer in training, with the Cadet program, comprise all of the certified employees. An Administrative Assistant and three Records Technicians are civilian staff that work to ensure that all of the certified staff is able to focus on police matters. Two Code Enforcement Officers are civilian employees that focus on non-police specific code violations and two Recruits, that work part-time, are employed to prepare for an academy position and provide support to other members of the department as needed.

Since the main function of any department involves patrol officers, 20 of the 31 sworn officers are on patrol, while five fill roles in the Investigations Unit. Two School Resource Officers work in partnership with the Morgan County RE-3 School District, while four employees make up the command staff in the department.

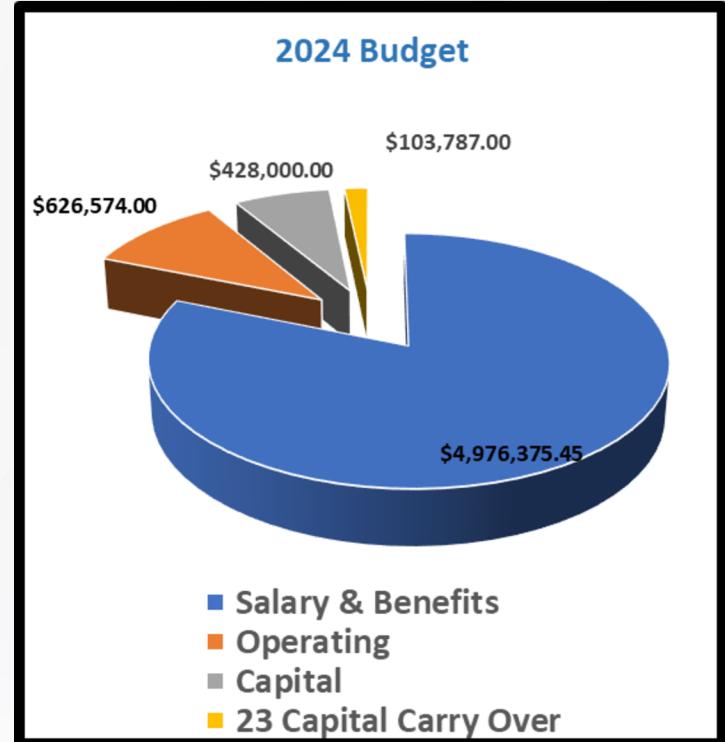
In 2023, the Fort Morgan Police Department restructured that command staff to add a Deputy Chief and eliminated the Administrative Sergeant. This serves as the foundation for succession planning.



Budget

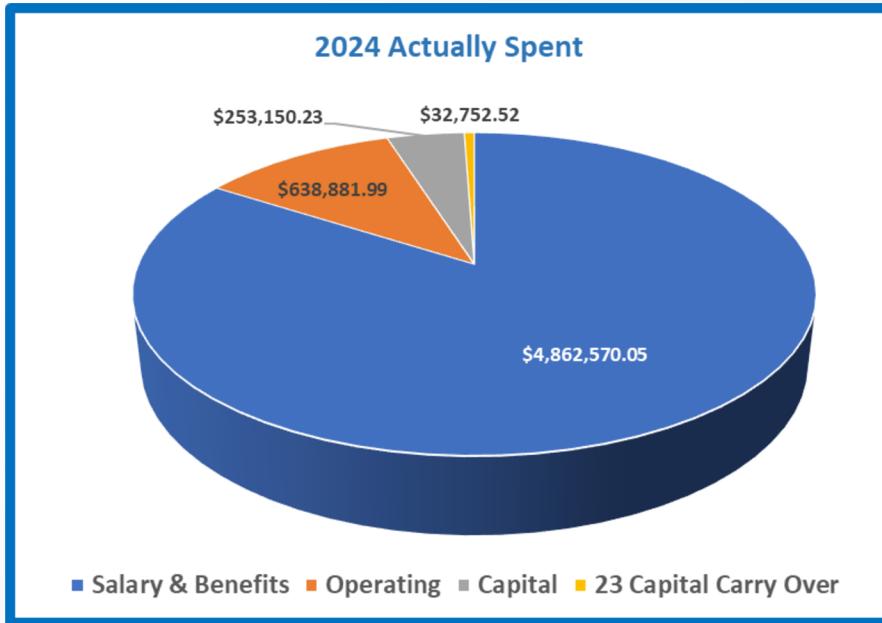
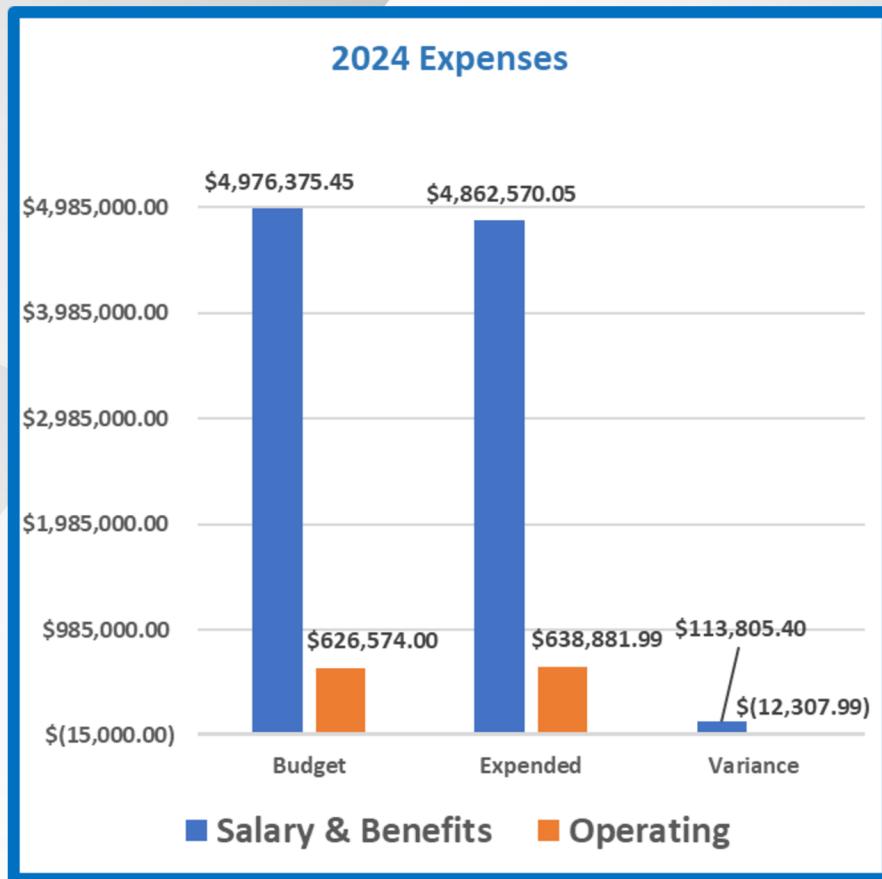
The operating budget for the police department comes from the general fund and, in 2024, totaled \$5,602,949.45. Of that, \$4,976,375.45 is allocated for the salary and benefits of the 40 employees while another \$103,839 is allocated for utilities, property insurance, and janitorial services. In total, the police department budget accounts for approximately 32% of the entire general fund, while 89% of that is spent on salary and benefits. Both of these percentages are in-line with other law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

Items budgeted for capital improvements included body-worn cameras, in-car cameras, parking lot repairs, building repairs, computers for the patrol cars, and vehicles. There was a carry-over item from 2023 as our vehicles were not upfitted in 2023 due to long delivery times and wait for upfitting



City of Fort Morgan's Total Budget	\$87,466,873.58
2024 Operating & Maintenance Budget	\$5,602,949.45
2024 Capital Budget	\$428,000.00
2023 Capital Carry-Over	\$103,787.00
Total	\$6,030,949.45

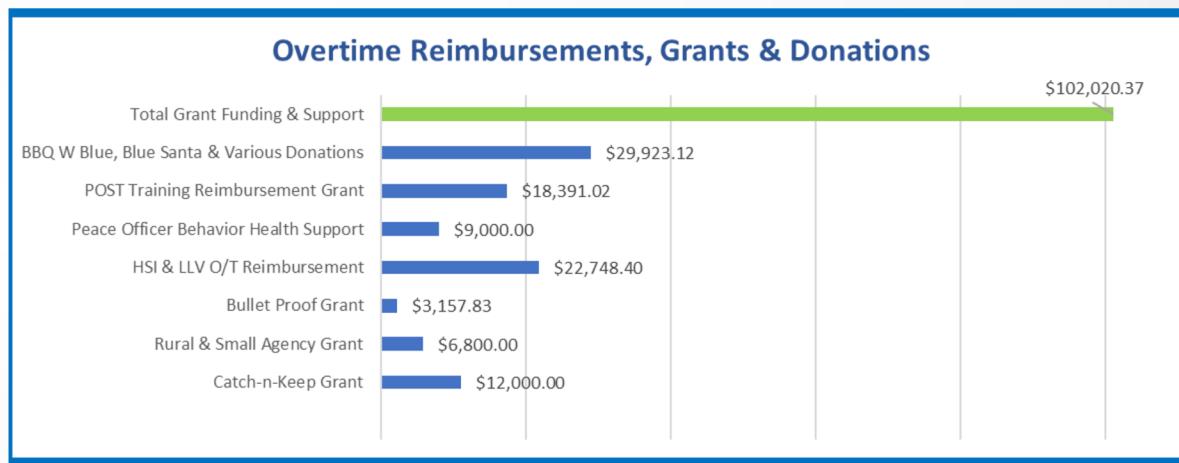
Budget



Grants & Donations

In 2024, we received a total of \$102,020.37 in grant funding and support from other outside sources for programs within the Fort Morgan Police Department. The breakdown of funding is as follows:

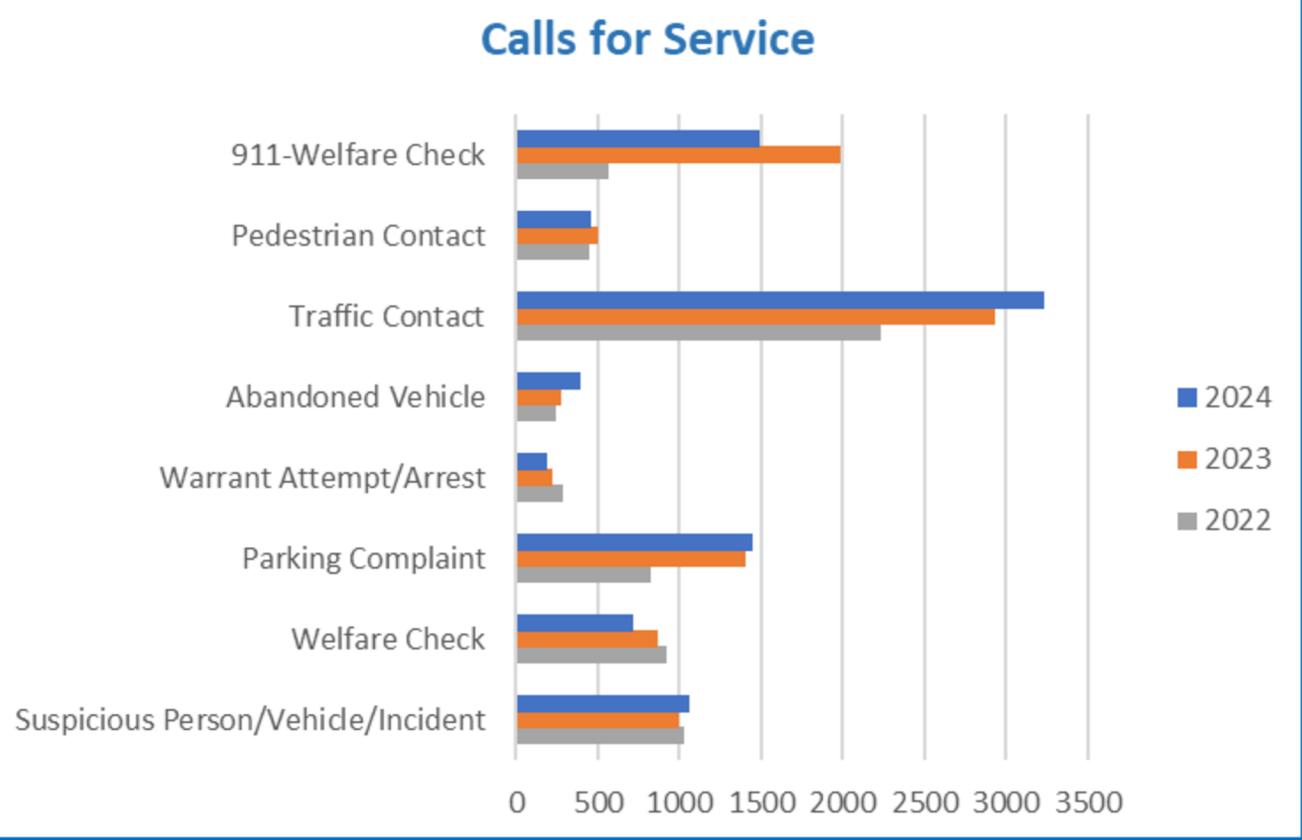
- \$12,000 for the “Catch-n-Keep” grant. This grant covered expenses related to hiring and retaining officers.
- \$6,800 for the Rural and Small Agency Academy Grant to send two employees to the academy
- \$3,157.83 for Bullet Proof Vest grant
- \$22,748.40 for overtime reimbursement from Homeland Security Investigations for support on drug cases, BATTLE (Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement), and coverage to LLV for police service
- \$9,000 for Peace Officer Behavioral Health Support to provide mental health wellness for staff
- \$18,391.02 for POST Training Reimbursement Grant to pay for outside training.
- \$29,923.12 for BBQ with the Blue, Blue Santa, and various other private donations.



Calls for Service

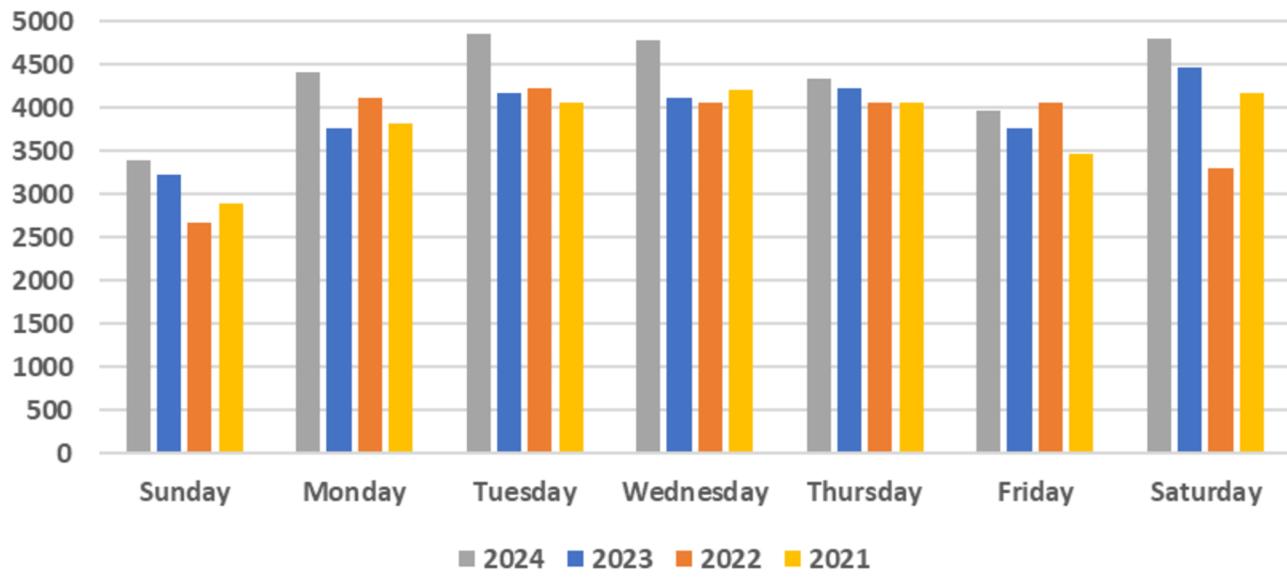
Traffic contacts accounted for the majority of all call classifications and have continued to rise year over year. In 2024 we had a total of 3,238 contacts. Welfare checks that were called through 911 and/or officer observations were commonly handled as well, however, these declined from previous years.

With total calls for service in 2024 being 31,086, the Fort Morgan Police Department handled 2,932 more calls than in 2023 and 4,240 more than 2022. The busiest time for calls is between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., when 7,059 calls were handled. An additional 6,884 calls were handled between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. which nearly mirrored 2023 when this timeframe had the most call volume. Tuesdays were the day that had the most calls, followed closely by Saturday and Wednesday.

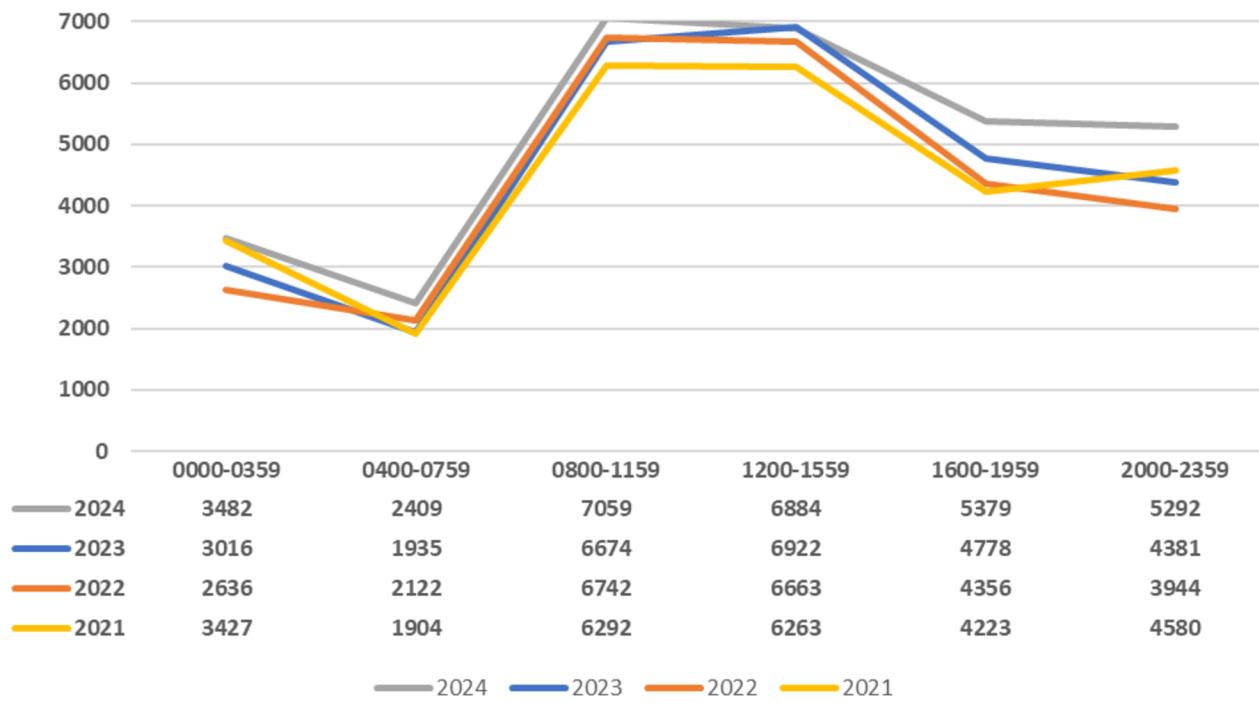


Calls for Service

CFS by Day of Week

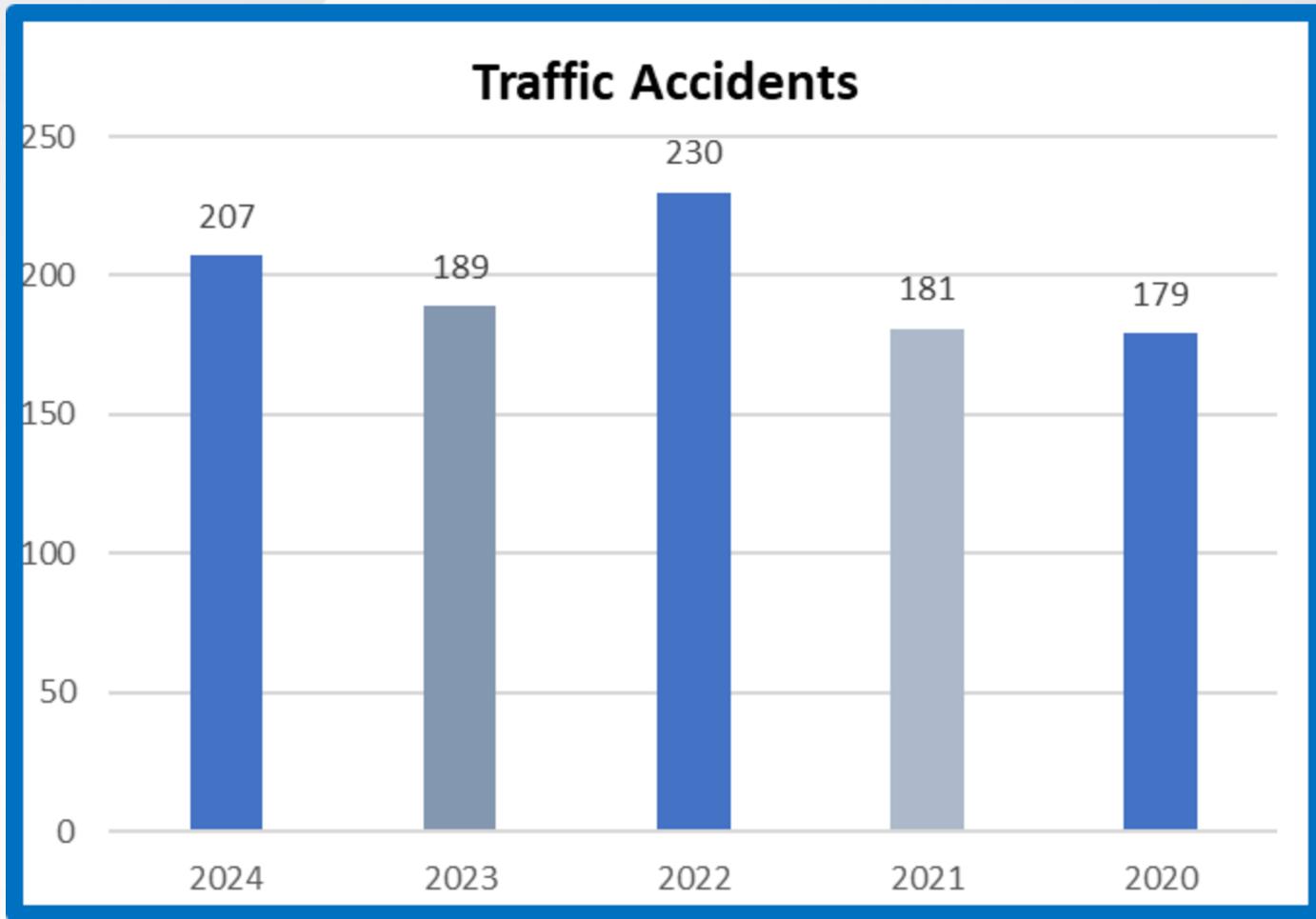


CFS by Time of Day



Traffic Accidents

In 2024, we saw an increase in traffic accidents over the previous year. In all, there were 207 traffic accidents in 2024, 27 of which involved injury (down from 34 in 2023). Both alcohol-related accidents (19) and hit and runs (56) were higher, while pedestrian and bicycle accidents were reduced from 14 in 2023 to only 3 in 2024. Of all accidents, 178 resulted in charges to at least one of the parties involved



Citations

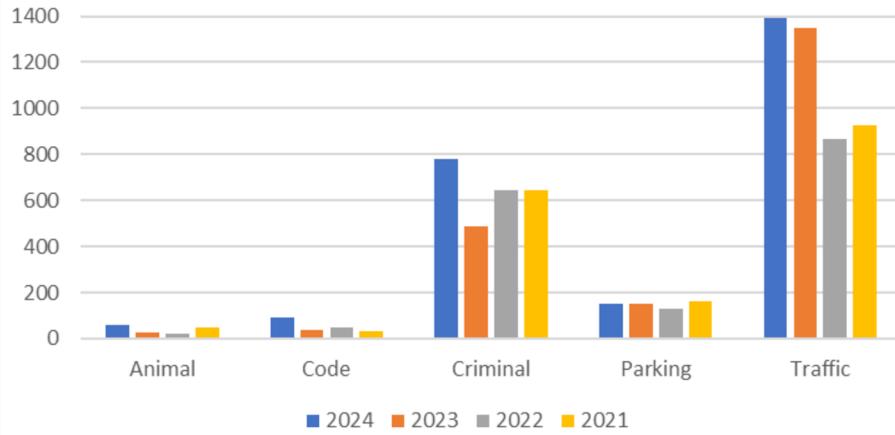
While the Fort Morgan Police Department believes that there are many ways to enforce violations and works to gain compliance in the most appropriate manner, there are some violations that are too serious in nature, or some people have not changed behaviors with previous efforts to correct the actions. In these cases, citations are issued to gain future compliance.

In 2024, the number of citations increased in the areas of animal, code, criminal, and traffic offenses. Parking violations decreased by 1 from 2023.

Traffic citations accounted for most charges, with 1,392. This is a small increase over the previous year when the number of traffic charges was 1,348. Criminal citations were up over 62% with 780 charges, compared to 487 in 2023.

UNIFORM SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT OR PENALTY ASSESSMENT										NO.	CR#	CFS #	
Morgan County, Colorado County Code: 15										A23423		202400004335	
Date of Violation (mm/dd/yyyy)	Time of Violation	Approximate Location of Violation 300 BLOCK OF E BURLINGTON,								<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Penal		
2/21/2024	4:56 AM												
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Accident	<input type="checkbox"/> Injuries Involved	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence	Direction of Travel: W								
<input type="checkbox"/> THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO VS. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF FORT MORGAN, COLORADO VS.													
Defendant's Last Name	(First)	(Middle)	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)										
			11/11/11										
Defendant's Street Address	City			State	Zip	Home Telephone							
	FORT MORGAN			CO	80701								
Defendant's Mailing Address	City			State	Zip	Alternate Telephone							
Defendant's Employer	Address			Social Security #									
Driver's License Number	Class	State	Race	Ethnicity	Sex	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes				
<input type="checkbox"/> CDL	A	CO	W	N	M	5' 10"	225	BRO	GRN				
Vehicle License Number / Type	State	Year	Make	Model	Color	VIN	Legal Weight			Actual Weight			
	CO	2010	CHEV	CAM	SIL								
Registered Owner Name and Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Above			Posted	Charged	Method		LIDAR Distance					
				30	65	RADAR							
<input type="checkbox"/> C.R.S. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M.T.C. <input type="checkbox"/> CITY CODE VIOLATION	CODE FINE SURCHARGE POINTS												
1101 SPEEDING 25-39 MILES OVER LIMIT									008	SUMMONS	6		
1402 CARELESS DRIVING									141	SUMMONS	\$20.00	4	
FORT MORGAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 901 E. Beaver Ave., Fort Morgan, CO 80701 (970) 542-3050										Fines	Surcharges	Points	
2 Total Number of Charges	ORI/ CO0440200 TOTALS								SUMMONS	SUMMONS	SUMMONS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Custodial Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprinted <input type="checkbox"/> Photographed <input type="checkbox"/> INTERPRETER (TYPE)									<input type="checkbox"/> Haz. Mat.	<input type="checkbox"/> Comm. Veh.			
SUMMONS TRAFFIC INFRACTION <input type="checkbox"/> OFFENSE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PENALTY ASSESSMENT	TRAFFIC INFRACTION <input type="checkbox"/> OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/>												
My signature, with payment and within 20 days, is an acknowledgement of guilt of all charges listed above and I understand that the points indicated will be assessed against my driver's license. My signature, without payment, is a promise to appear in court at the time and place indicated below.													
X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VALID COLORADO DRIVER'S LICENSE	X												
NOTICE: See instructions on reverse side titled "SUMMONS"										TOTAL TO BE PAID BY MAIL: (FINE & SURCHARGE)			
YOU ARE SUMMONED AND ORDERED TO APPEAR TO ANSWER CHARGES AS STATED ABOVE ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN MORGAN COUNTY, COLORADO										NOTICE: See instructions on reverse side titled "PENALTY ASSESSMENT"			
IN: <input type="checkbox"/> MORGAN COUNTY COURT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FORT MORGAN MUNICIPAL COURT										THE DEFENDANT HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEFENDANT COMMITTED THE OFFENSE AGAINST THE HONOR AND DIGNITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, COUNTY OF MORGAN AND AFFIRMS THAT A COPY OF THIS SUMMONS & COMPLAINT OR PENALTY ASSESSMENT WAS SERVED UPON THE DEFENDANT			
AT: MORGAN COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER 901 East Beaver Ave. 400 WARNER STREET Fort Morgan, CO 80701 FORT MORGAN COLORADO 80701 (970) 542-3950										OFFICER - PRINT LAST NAME PRICE NO. 250			
ON: 4/10/2024 AT 1:30 PM										OFFICER SIGNATURE 			
WARNING: IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IN RESPONSE TO THIS SUMMONS, AS ORDERED, A WARRANT WILL BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST AND ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSESSED										DATE ISSUED: 2/21/2024 5:03 AM INV. OFCR-250			

Citation/Charges



Crime in Fort Morgan

The National Incident Reporting System (NIBRS) is the system the Fort Morgan Police Department has been using to report crime statistics for several years. This reporting system breaks crime into Group A and Group B Offenses, with Group A offenses generally being the most egregious crimes.

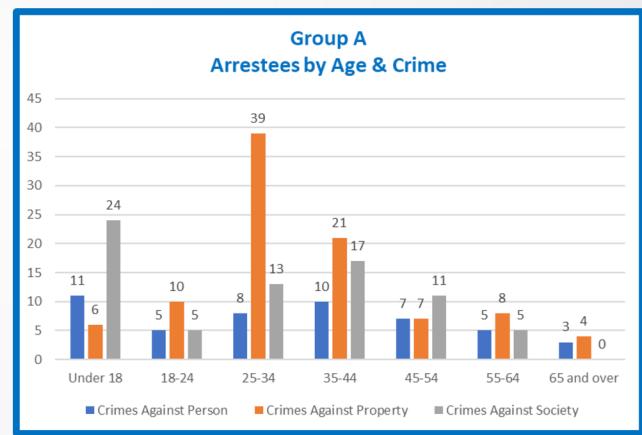
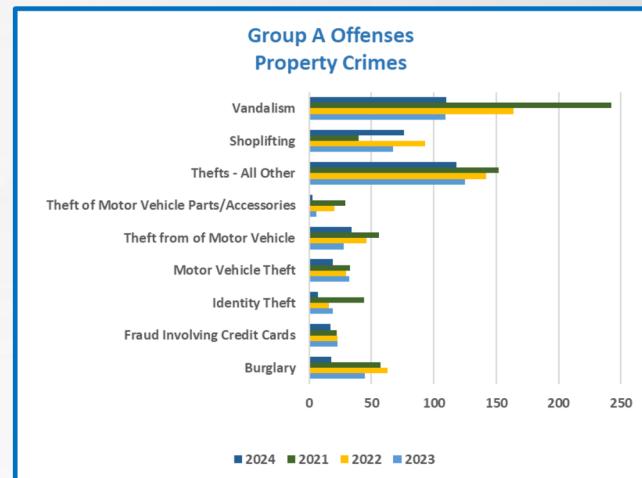
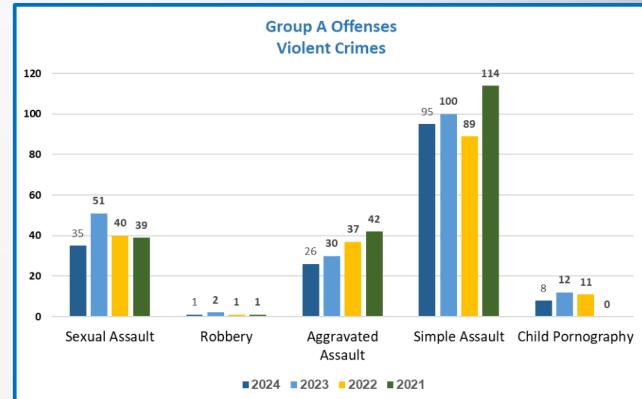
As shown in the table below, the number of simple assaults decreased over the previous year, with combined assaults the lowest they have been over the past four years. Violent and sex crimes saw a significant decrease over the past four years as well. Overall, property crimes remained consistent year after year, however, there was a decrease in all categories of property crime with the exceptions of theft from a motor vehicle and shoplifting.

In 2024, we had a total of 745 Group A offenses following 830 in 2023, 907 in 2022 and 1,096 in 2021. An increase of Group B offenses in 2024 of 95 was likely due to an increase in proactive enforcement, which resulted in more proactive arrests than in years past. Clearance rates have increased to 50.81% in 2024. The fourth consecutive year of increases, with 39.96% cleared in 2021. The average clearance rate in Colorado for 2024 was 43.6%

Criminal cases that are reported and have no leads or suspects and cannot be cleared by arrest or special exceptions (such as an uncooperative victim) are suspended. If at a later date, more information becomes available, the case is re-opened.

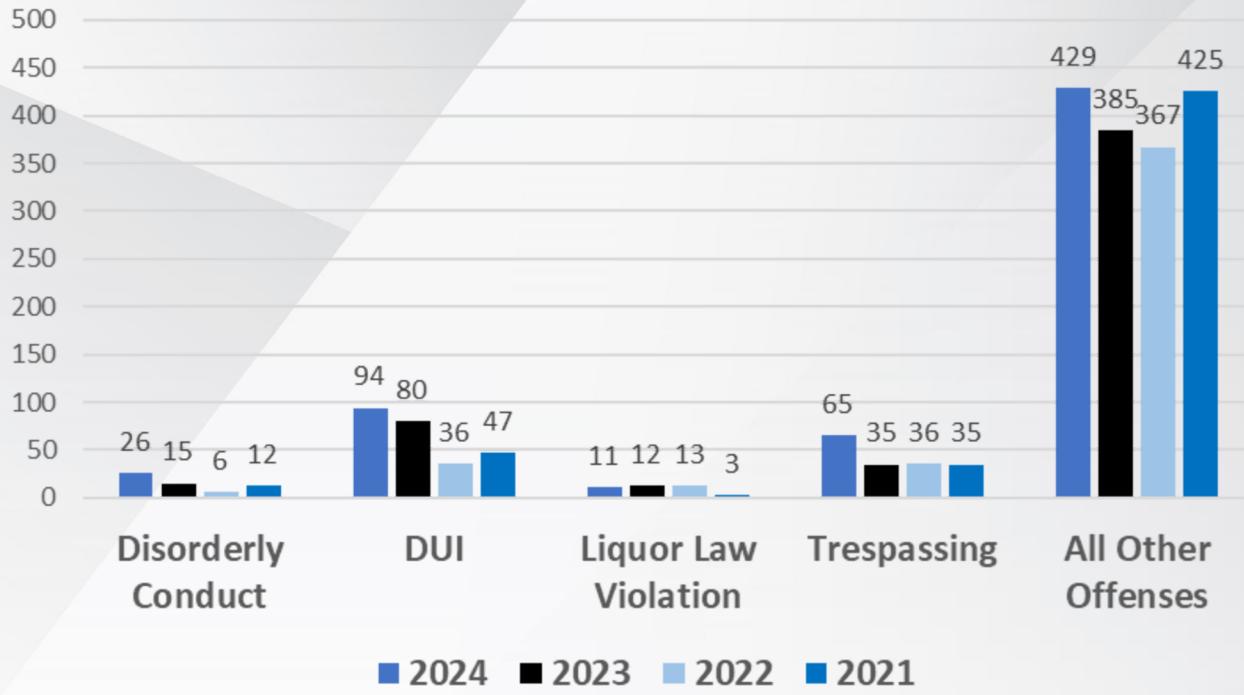
Cases that are cleared by exception occur when, even though there is a suspect, there may be reasons outside of law enforcement control that preclude arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender. For example: if law enforcement is unable to locate the offender or if a victim is unwilling to prosecute, the case may be exceptionally cleared.

Some cases are suspended after all leads have been exhausted. These suspended cases are not closed and can be reopened for additional investigation if there should be any new evidence that arises.

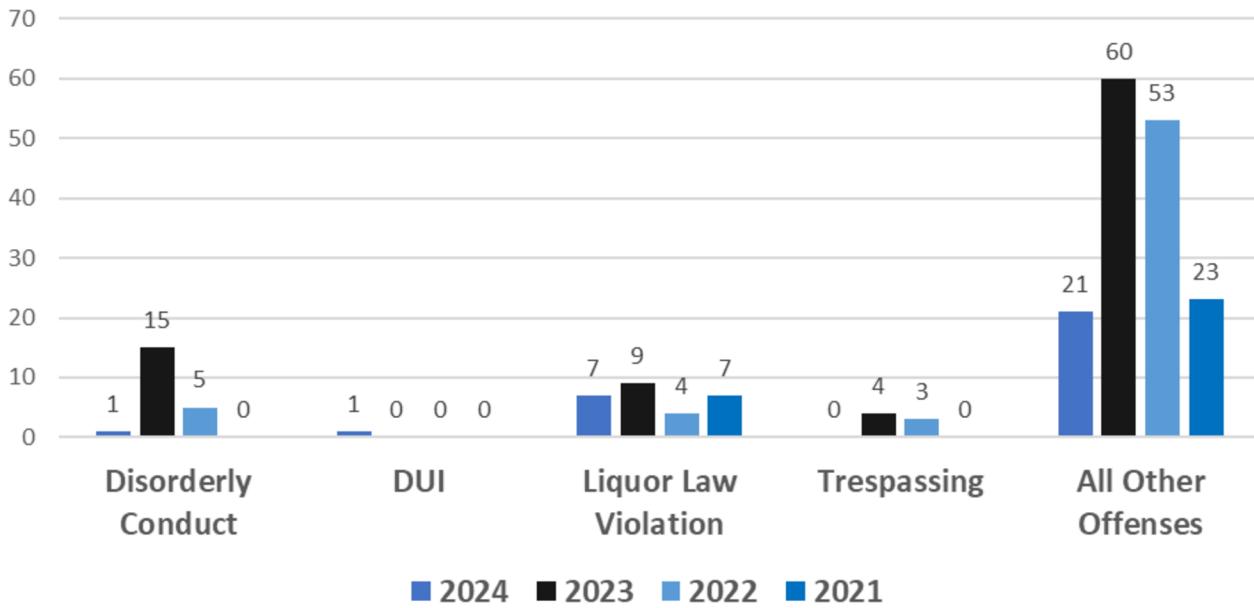


Crime in Fort Morgan

Group B Offenses with Arrests Adults



Group B Offenses with Arrests Juveniles

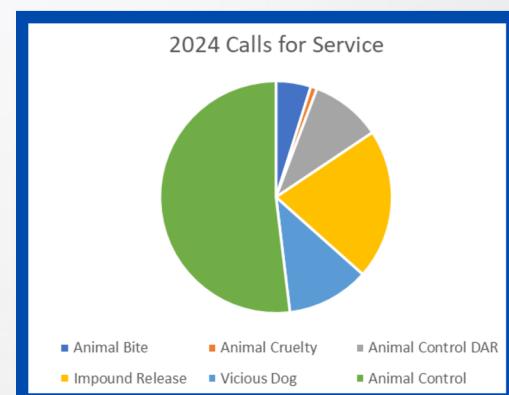
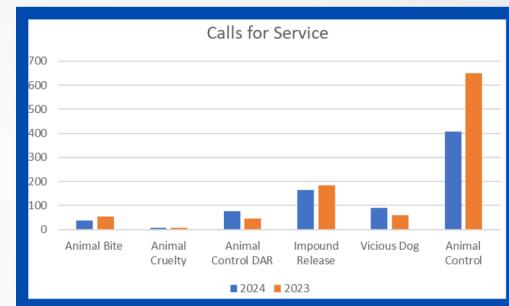
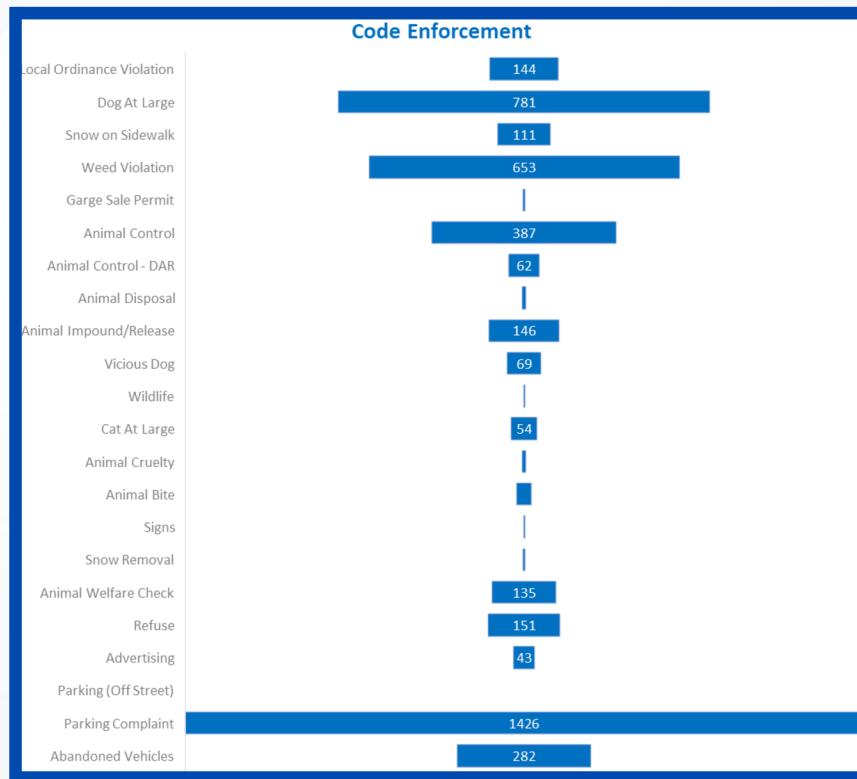


Code Enforcement

In 2024, the Fort Morgan City Council asked that we increase code enforcement to better handle some of the code issues in the city. As a result of this directive, more code violations were worked by patrol and code enforcement officers than in many years past.

Among many other required tasks, code enforcement handles refuse and animal control calls alike. With 653 weed violations, 282 abandoned vehicles, and 1,426 parking violations leading the way, these officers handled a total of 4,493 violations, with some assistance from patrol officers in the off hours.

They were able to take a new and unique approach to addressing some of the most egregious properties with refuse issues and were successful in getting numerous properties to meet community standards. On top of the violations, code enforcement officers were also involved in many community policing opportunities to include bicycle rodeos, Trick or Treat Street, and BBQ with the Blue.

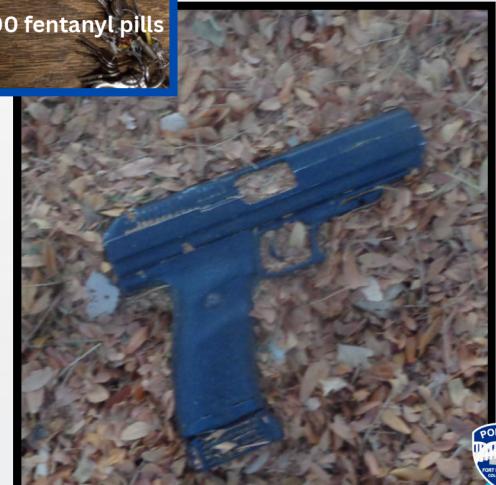


Investigations

In 2024, the investigations division either investigated or assisted in investigating 153 cases. Of those, 43 cases were sex-based crimes, and 11 were violent crimes against person cases. This is a decrease across all of these statistics from the previous year.

In 2024, the investigations division assisted in BATTLE (Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement) operations as part of a task force that has been set up by the state to decrease auto thefts across the state. This was the first full year for such operations which were successful in several stolen vehicle recoveries including one which crashed after a contact was attempted after the vehicle was seen leaving Walmart.

A new partnership with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) was formed in 2024, with a drug detective becoming a task force officer. This partnership resulted in more resources for our county for narcotics investigations. Several arrests were made with the work of the drug investigator including two high-level narcotics dealers, known to be peddling fentanyl and methamphetamine throughout our 13th Judicial District. Both parties were charged into the federal system, with the assistance of HSI.



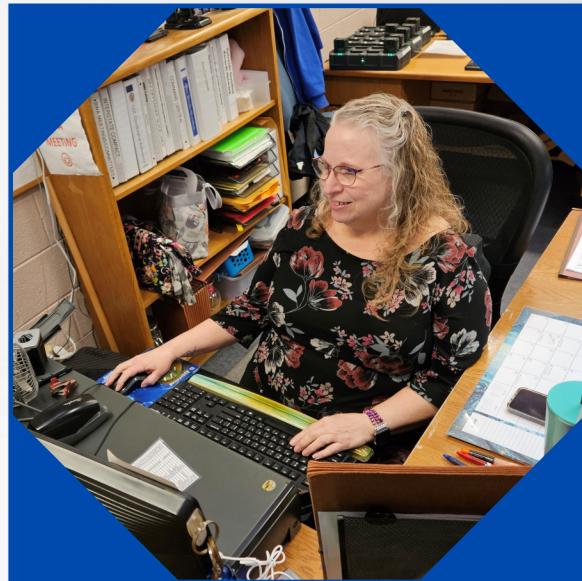
Records Division

The Records Division is often overlooked and goes unnoticed when people think of the operations of a police department. The employees within this division, however, are extremely important to what is done on a daily basis.

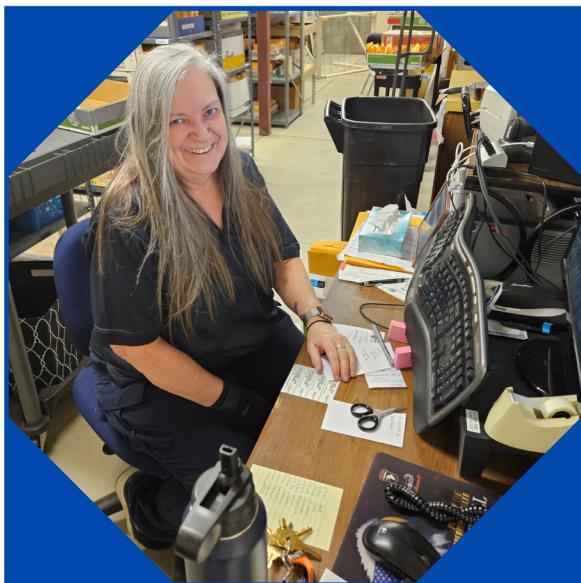
On top of typing every report and entering all of the crime data into the National Incident-Based Reporting System, these individuals also respond to every request for records that comes into the department. When a record request is received, they find the record and prepare it for release. In some cases, this requires redacting information that is not appropriate for release and/or making copies of body worn camera and in-car camera video.

In 2024, our Records Division received 700 record requests that were completed and provided to the requester. The number of records released by the Records Division was considerably lower than in years past. One reason for the diminished number is the fact that the police department began utilizing a public facing website for accident reports. This system allows insurance companies and citizens to access the accident reports directly. This saves significant time for the technicians, while improving the service to those requesting a report.

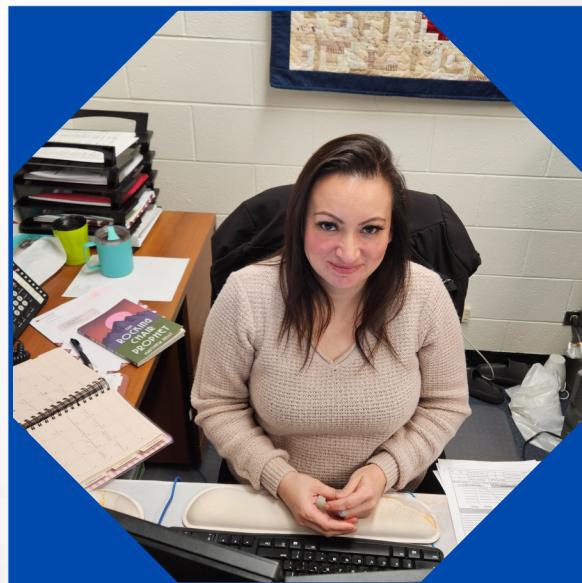
Without the Records Division, staff would be unable to function as required by law. This is a vital function for every law enforcement agency.



Stephanie Harman
Records Technician



Mary Holt
Records Technician
Evidence Custodian



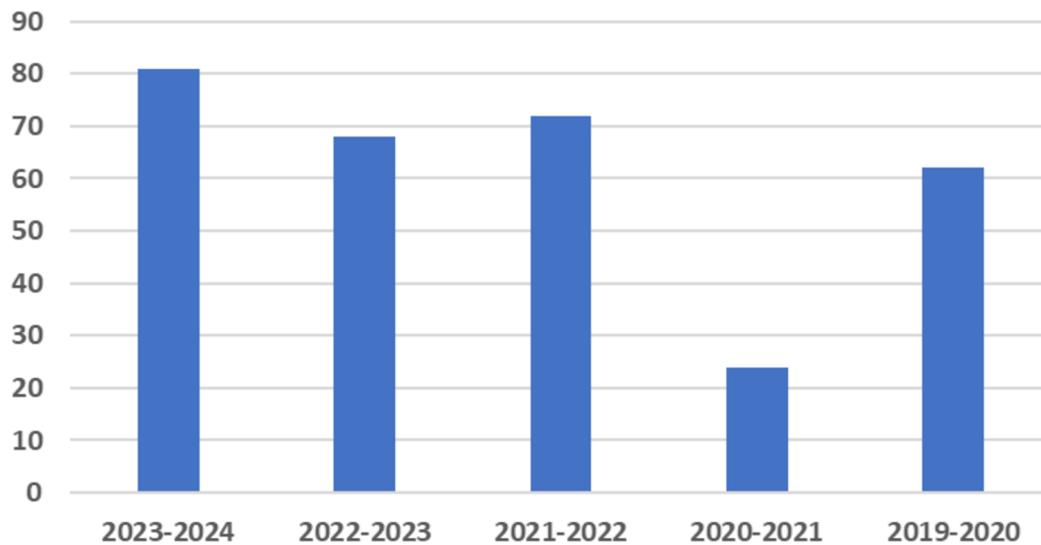
Belen Dominguez
Records Technician

School Resource

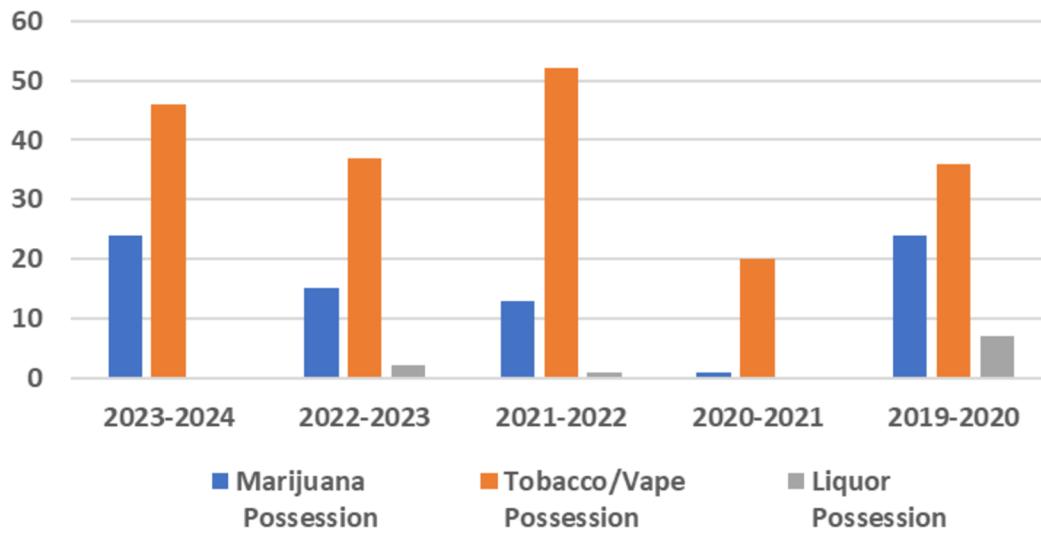
The School Resource Officer program is a collaborative effort between the Morgan County School District RE3 and the Fort Morgan Police Department. The cost associated with the two officers assigned to the schools, is shared between the two organizations and has been a great benefit to both.

Since 2002, the Fort Morgan Police Department has had a school resource officer in the high school and middle school. This SRO provides security to the students and helps build strong relationships between law enforcement and the school children. Through several innovative programs, Officers Malone and Gagliano have had a great impact on the community. Officer Malone completed his last day as an SRO in December as he retired over Christmas Break.

School Resource Officer Incident Reports



Most Common Violations

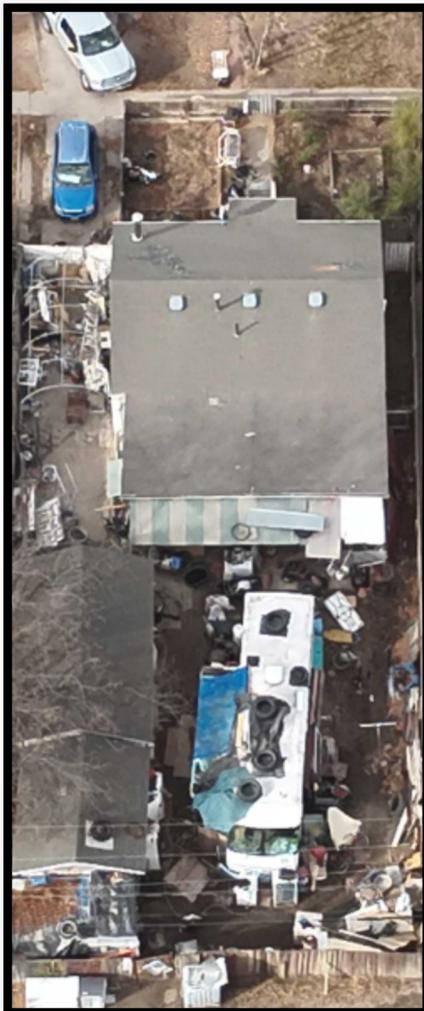


Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (Drone) Program

The Fort Morgan Police Department began a drone program in 2019 and has continued to build upon the program over the past five years. In 2024, four new pilots were trained in mid-2024 and obtained their FAA certificates to fly the drone. In 2024, we also purchased a new drone with thermal capabilities. The drone was utilized for 14 deployments in 2024 and used for several types of flights to include:

- Surveillance Missions
- Evidence Recovery
- Suspect Locating
- SWAT Operations
- Scouting for Search Warrant and SWAT Operations
- Search Warrant Photographs
- Demonstrations
- Recording Community Events

As we continue to build upon the program and train FAA licensed pilots, we believe the drone program can be a great success in keeping our staff safe, better serving our community, and a great tool in establishing community relationships through demonstrations.



Bike Patrol

The Bicycle Patrol program provides a unique opportunity to engage the community and effectively address issues that are difficult to enforce due to logistical issues. In 2024, due to staffing shortages, the use of the bicycle was limited to events and some minimal enforcement by Sergeant Kevin Campell. More officers were trained to ride the bike, however, staffing levels prohibited effective use throughout the year.

In total, the bike was ridden 596.87 miles last year, an just over 75 hours. The bicycle was effective in working parking violations in high density traffic areas (school zones), patrol less accessible areas, and working special event. 11 traffic contacts, 10 pedestiran contacts and 13 dispatched calls were also handled by the bike patrol officer in 2024.



Bike Patrol: Officer Kasandra Altman, Officer Henry Altman, Corporal Marcos Montalvo and Sergeant Caleb Creech.
Not pictured Sergeant Kevin Campbell & Corporal Brian Herrera

Field Training Officer

The Field Training Officer program is one of the most important programs within any police department. This program is responsible for ensuring that all newly hired officers are properly trained to handle all the situations that may come up as they begin working patrol on their own. Teaching proper policies and procedures is extremely important but it is also about teaching the department culture and setting expectations that help us to maintain a professional and effective agency.

In 2024, the Field Training Program successfully trained five new members for the Fort Morgan Police Department, including two lateral officers and three recruits. In total, Field Training Officers dedicated approximately 3,000 hours to training while still fulfilling their regular duties. The training program featured a mini-academy in June 2024, as well as sessions with members of the 13th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Records Technicians, and Dispatchers. Additionally, one current officer completed the necessary tests and became a Field Training Officer. To enhance program management, members participated in specialized training, and a new Field Training Manual was created using the insights gained.

Evolving with the ever-changing statutes, best practices, and new ideas is extremely important for an FTO program to be operating at its peak. As such, new tests were created to show that officers are efficient at police tasks following each phase of the program. All evaluation criteria were also reviewed and changed to remain consistent with today's law enforcement requirements.



Phase 1

Shadow phase - New officers will observe during most calls while focusing on learning the city's geography and basic radio etiquette.



Phase 2

A mixture of the FTO and the incoming officer handling calls. The FTO is there to assist the new officer in any way possible to successfully complete a call. The FTO still drives the patrol vehicle.



Phase 3

The new officer is expected and asked to handle most situations on their own with minimal assistance. They also take over the driving.



Phase 4

Officers handle all calls on their own. A FTO or Sergeant is in plain clothes. They are there to shadow the trainee to ensure they meet the minimum standard to safely do the job.

K9

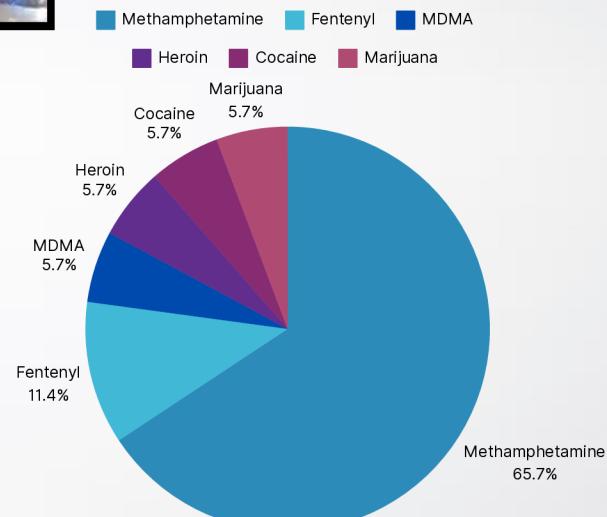
The Fort Morgan Police Department reintroduced the K9 program in 2023 by adding K9 Ripp. Ripp is a dual purpose, patrol and drug, dog that has shown to be a very effective part of the duo with Officer Quick. He can be used to apprehend suspects through bite work and also tracking their scent. He can help with evidence detection and with clearing buildings in search of individuals as well as SWAT operations and many other situations that may jeopardize the safety of officers. His ability to detect odor is an excellent tool for the department.

With 65 deployments, in 2024, Ripp was responsible for assisting in 35 drug seizures of Methamphetamine (23), Fentanyl (4), MDMA (2), Heroin (2), Cocaine (2), and Marijuana (2), with 40 arrests being made on cases in which Ripp was used. Eight more people were taken into custody with Ripp's assistance through patrol work. None of these arrests ended with any bite or injury to the subject of the arrest.

In order to successfully work as a certified working K9, much training is involved. In 2024, over 182 hours were dedicated to training alone.



Drug Indications



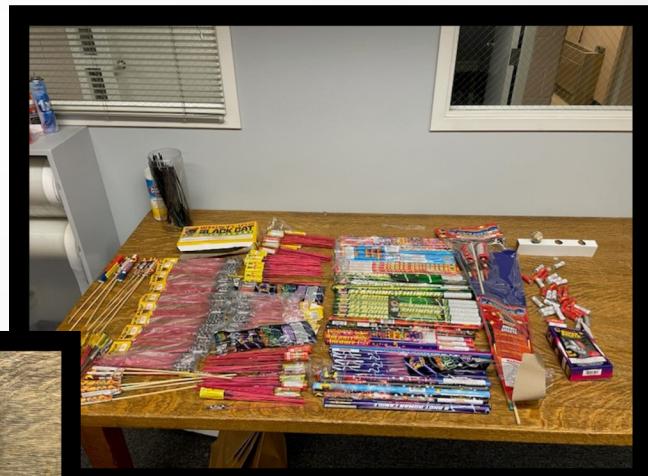
SET Team

One of the ancillary duties that officers often participate in is a Special Enforcement Team (SET). The SET team is designed to supplement and augment the patrol and investigations divisions of the department. Officers who belong to this elite team are often used for surveillance, drug operations, and directed enforcement. To be a member of SET, there is a competitive testing process and those officers that are found to be the most active are often chosen to be members. Not only does the SET team assist with patrol and other functions, but these members also learn more investigative skills that may help them should they ever be selected as detectives.

In 2024, the SET team participated in several operations that were of great benefit to the department:

- Two separate operations targeting dangerous driving issues in Riverside Park.
- Two separate 4th of July Fireworks Operations (illegal fireworks enforcement) where numerous individuals were held accountable for their illegal display of fireworks.
- DUI saturation patrols on two separate holiday weekends
- Three separate seatbelt enforcement operations
- Seven BATTLE (Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement) operations
- 12 Firearm denial investigations (investigations in which a person fails a background check for a firearm)

On top of all of the operations that went above and beyond their normal duties and work hours, this team held consistent meetings.



SWAT

The Northeast Regional SWAT Team had a highly successful and productive year in 2024, demonstrating excellence in tactical operations, training, and collaboration. The team completed 11 operations throughout the year, working alongside multiple agencies, including Washington County, Logan County, Bush Police Department, Sterling Police Department, Weld County SWAT, Adams County SWAT, and the Northeast Regional Drug Task Force. Each operation resulted in successful suspect apprehensions with minimal use of force, showcasing the team's precision and professionalism. Expanding its capabilities, the team integrated drones into operations to enhance real-time intelligence gathering and strengthened coordination with the negotiations team for improved crisis resolution. Additionally, the incorporation of FMPD and Sterling K9 units bolstered tactical effectiveness and operational efficiency.

The team received well-earned recognition from the Rocky Mountain Tactical Team Association (RMTTA) for its dedication, innovation, and looking-for-work attitude, becoming the first in the region to arm tactical medics (TEMS) for increased safety. Further solidifying its reputation, one of the team's snipers ranked at the top of his class, outperforming even seasoned instructors. Growth was another key achievement, with the team expanding to 16 operators, the highest number in its history. Even with the challenges of budget constraints, the team was able to conduct joint training and operations with Weld County SWAT, refined interagency coordination, while training with the DOC SORT team to further enhance skills and interoperability with correctional tactical units.

Building on the successes of 2024, the Northeast Regional SWAT Team remains committed to advancing tactics, technology, and training while maintaining its high standards in high-risk operations. The team looks forward to continuing its mission of excellence and innovation in the years ahead.



Automated License Plate Readers

2024 was the first full year in which the Fort Morgan Police Department was able to utilize Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) as an investigation tool. ALPR that is used, are fixed devices that photograph the license plate of every vehicle that travels through a location in which the ALPR is mounted. The plate is automatically ran through a database that is connected to our criminal justice records systems to locate stolen vehicles, warrants associated with the license plate, and even sex offenders associated with a vehicle. Several ALPRs are set up throughout the City of Fort Morgan.

An ALPR can help locate vehicles by make, model, color, etc. that travel through the area and officers can use this data to find suspects in other crimes. License plate of suspected drug dealers, burglars, and other criminals can also be put on a “hotlist”. All of the vehicles that are entered as stolen or other criminal activity associated, immediately set off an alert to the officers on patrol, indicating the location of the vehicle and direction of travel. This helps officers locate these criminals.

In 2024, there were several stolen vehicles that were recovered and individuals with warrants located through the use of ALPR. At least 13 individuals were arrested through these alerts and many others were located through the investigative tools available for identifying vehicles in certain areas at specific times.

Tue Nov 19 2024 04:04:52 am MST	 	BSK110
Tue Nov 19 2024 01:26:34 am MST	 	BSK110
Tue Nov 19 2024 12:49:57 am MST	 	BSK110
Tue Nov 19 2024 12:41:32 am MST	 	BSK110
Mon Nov 18 2024 08:55:35 pm MST	 	BSK110

Annual Review of Bias-Based Policing

A fundamental right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution is the “equal protection” clause. Everyone is entitled to walk, drive, and move about in public free from police interference so long as they obey the law. Those who commit infractions must receive equal and fair treatment, regardless of their race, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, physical handicap, religion, or another belief system. Officers must conduct themselves in a dignified and respectful manner at all times when dealing with the public. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics articulates the professional and personal behavior that is expected of all law enforcement officers.

Random audits found no unusual patterns of enforcement that would statistically indicate that bias-based profiling is occurring. A review of data that showed an absence of any sustained citizen complaints also indicates that no bias-based profiling has occurred.

Beginning in 2023, the Fort Morgan Police Department committed to doing Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE), whose goal is to prevent misconduct, avoid police mistakes, and promote officer health and wellness. Annual training was completed in compliance with this program and all new officers were provided with the training in a mini-academy.

Since there were no complaints or indicators of racial or any other bias-based profiling, there were no corrective measures taken during the year 2024.

Officer Training

The Fort Morgan Police Department began tying pay increases to training requirements in 2021. The purpose of the pay plan is to ensure that officers are trained beyond minimal requirements to provide excellent service to the community. In 2023, the city implemented a pay increase after a market study. Based on the new study and emerging needs, the training requirements were modified, to better address the needs of the department and to ensure that officers receive pay increases only if they better themselves through training and improves the overall efficiency of the department. This means that training is at the forefront of every officer, and it reinforces the belief that training should be an on-going, career-long endeavor to build upon the skills of each officer.

On top of the training requirement in the pay plan, the Fort Morgan Police Department has also developed a leadership plan for all leaders in the department. This plan begins with corporals and goes all the way through the command structure to the Chief of Police. Leaders are expected to receive leadership training annually, throughout their leadership roles. Basic leadership classes are set up for the newest leaders and each year more leadership training is added. This continues to build upon the previous leadership principles to ensure that our leaders are well-trained and are adequately equipped to keep the department moving forward as retirements occur.

In 2024, we had a total of 33 certified officers, including those in the academy. The officers attended a combined total of 5,047.75 hours of training. Some of this training was in-house training that is required for all officers to attend to maintain POST certification, while most of the training was outside of the department, where officers had the opportunity to meet others from around the state and learn new ideas and concepts that may be beneficial to the Fort Morgan Police Department. The average officer attended 153 hours of training in 2024.



Taser Training



Leadership Training



Driver Training



Intox Training



Arrest Control



Rifle Training



Police Accountability Report

Police accountability involves holding both individual police officers as well as law enforcement agencies responsible for effectively delivering basic services of crime control and maintaining order while treating individuals fairly and within the bounds of law. Police are expected to uphold all laws regarding due process, search and seizure, arrests, and discrimination, as well as other laws relating to equal employment, sexual harassment, etc.

The most imperative function in our department is the accountability of ourselves to those we serve. We take all complaints seriously and investigate each one thoroughly. In addition, we review the behaviors of all officers through the Early Warning System or EWS, which tracks specific behaviors that arise to ensure the community's safety.

The Fort Morgan Police Department conducted three Internal Affairs investigations in 2024. One civilian employee was involved in one of the complaints and the investigation was sustained, leading to termination. The complaint alleged misconduct in the workplace. Another complaint involved an officer with an allegation of a policy violation resulting in an inappropriate use of force. This allegation was sustained for a minor policy violation and exonerated on the improper use of force. The employee had resigned before the start of the investigation (happened to be the last day of employment) and no discipline was imposed for the minor policy violation due to no longer being employed with this agency. The third investigation was an administrative investigation based on serious bodily injury sustained by a suspect, while being arrested. The investigation showed that the officer was justified in the force used to effect the arrest and the officer was exonerated.

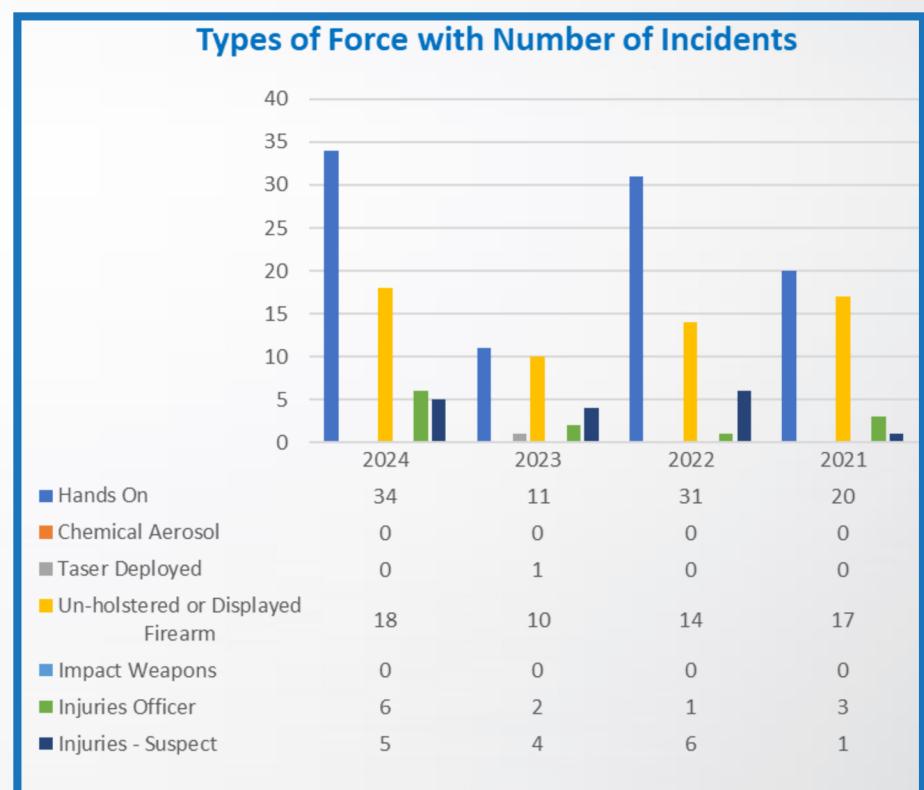


Reports of Resistance & Force Used to Overcome

In 2024, the Fort Morgan Police Department made a total of 817 adult arrests and 70 juvenile arrests. This marks a 12.2% increase in adult arrests compared to 2023, which saw 728 adult arrests, and a 44% decrease in juvenile arrests from the previous year's 124 juvenile arrests. Overall, the total number of arrests increased by 4.1% year-over-year. The significant drop in juvenile arrests can likely be attributed to the Diversion Program introduced by the school resource officers in collaboration with the Fort Morgan School District. As for the increase in reports of resistance, it may be linked to better awareness and reporting practices by corporals and sergeants. Additionally, with the 12.2% rise in adult arrests from 2023, there are naturally more opportunities for resistance, as juvenile arrests typically involve fewer incidents of resistance. The data used for this Use of Force Analysis report is based on the NIBRS arrest numbers.

The 2024 reports of resistance show that there were 5 reports for unholstering or displaying a Taser, 34 reports for soft empty-hand control techniques, 8 reports were for only unholstering or displaying a firearm, and 10 reports involved officers pointing firearms as a suspect. In 6 reports of resistance incidents, an officer was reported as injured, while 5 suspects were reported as injured. After reviewing the primary reports, I found that only 4 out of the 6 reports mention the extent of the officer's injury, all of which suggest minimal injuries. One incident involved a somewhat major injury, requiring the officer to be reassigned to light duty, removing them from patrol duties.

Regarding the 5 reported injuries to suspects, only 1 incident clearly defined the injury sustained by the suspect. Some of the injuries may have been inaccurately attributed to the officers, as the suspect may have been injured by others, not by the officers themselves. In one case, the injury was classified as Serious Bodily Injury (SBI), occurring during an arrest. A thorough Internal Affairs (IA) investigation was conducted, and the officer was cleared of any wrongdoing. All injured suspects were either seen at the hospital and cleared by medical staff for jail transport or chose not to seek medical attention.



Community Outreach



Community Outreach

The Blue Santa program has been going strong for over 32 years. While it has evolved from the early days of collecting toys for kids to providing food and toiletries to those seniors in our community that often go unnoticed, 2024 was a successful year. The FMPD worked with the Brush Police Department to collect food and toiletries at Walmart, Safeway, Edward's, and Fresh Foods. Sherman Elementary and Baker Elementary Schools also had a drive to see what team could collect the most. The winning teams at each school were treated to ice cream sandwiches and a visit from Blue Santa. The 2024 Blue Santa Drive collected enough food, toiletries and money to bless 82 elders with generous amounts of necessary items and gift cards to make their holiday a little more special. In addition to food boxes and gift cards, poinsettias were delivered to several assisted living facilities and the Gene Doty Senior Center.



Community Outreach

Chat with the Chief



Citizen's Academy

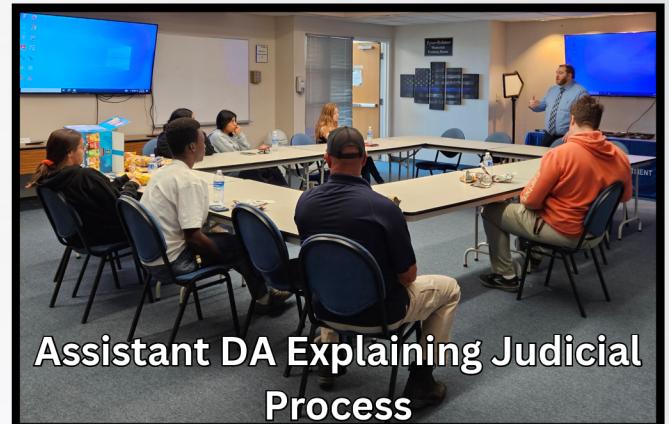
The Citizen's Academy has been a joint venture with the Morgan County Sheriff's Office, and Brush Police Department for the past three years. We have seen success in serving people from all over the county. It is an opportunity for citizens to see what it is like to serve as a police officer and takes place over several weeks. Those who sign up for this opportunity spend about three hours per week and give extremely high praise for the experience.



Community Outreach

Youth Academy

In 2024, the Fort Morgan Police Department brought the Youth Academy back to the Fort Morgan Police Department for students between the ages of 13-18 years of age. It was a great opportunity for the youth to see what a career in law enforcement would look like and help them to understand the experiences of police officers.



Community Feedback Program

As part of the commitment to provide excellent service to our citizens, the Fort Morgan Police Department uses technology to determine how we are perceived by those that call for police services. Through a program called CueHit, a text message is sent to those that call dispatch, a few hours after the call has been completed. The text message asks the person to reply with a score from 1-5, with 5 being the best possible score to rate the service they received. In 2024, there was a 35.66% response rate to the survey with 92.2% of the survey respondents rating our service a 4 or 5 (86% gave a 5), while another 2% rated us an acceptable score of 3. About 5% of the respondents stated our service was unacceptable. In each case where there was an unacceptable score, an employee reached out to the respondent to find out how we could better serve them. While some of the respondents had simply entered the wrong score and others had unrealistic expectations of what the police could do, we did find several with valid concerns around the procedures in place. The Fort Morgan Police Department took these unacceptable scores very seriously and changes have been made to procedures and training to ensure that all staff members are properly trained, and procedures meet the standards of those we serve.

He was helpful and courteous. As I have found all Fort Morgan officers.

a very reliable and kind person, excellent officer, I give him a 10/10 and above all he speaks Spanish

Super nice and respectful. Fort Morgan's best.

Poor guy had to bust through some a very defensive attitude because of the nature of the call and my past experiences but he did an excellent job remaining level and helping me understand that he heard me and had compassion for me even though there was nothing that could be done from a legal standpoint. Many thanks!

Very friendly, very informative!

Very courteous and helpful

Did a great job thanks for the help !!

The officer that spoke to me and advised me of my aunt was very knowledgeable, respectful, and I was very impressed with fort Morgan police Department. I am a native of Fort Morgan of 78 years ago, so Fort Morgan Housing come along ways and I would give your police department a # 10. Thank you

Wonderful kept me calm while I had my hurt puppy and continued to try to find the dogs that hurt us and he's always protected me when something very serious happened officer Leo is amazing

This interaction took place at my home in reference to a automobile that was parked across the street from my house the automobile had expired Colorado plates and was there for many many hours prior to my response and request to the fort Morgan Police department I was advised that the officer on duty was currently involved in a different situation then he responded and was absolutely phenomenal took my information gave me his business card I am totally satisfied with my request we have a very tight knit neighborhood and when things seem out of place it is really appropriate for any of us to contact the FM PD and request assistance I think chief Sharp and his officer for their prompt response

I can't name names because I never asked for any, but they were extremely nice and very respectful with me all the way from up to the time I was arrested to the while in holding to the time I was released.

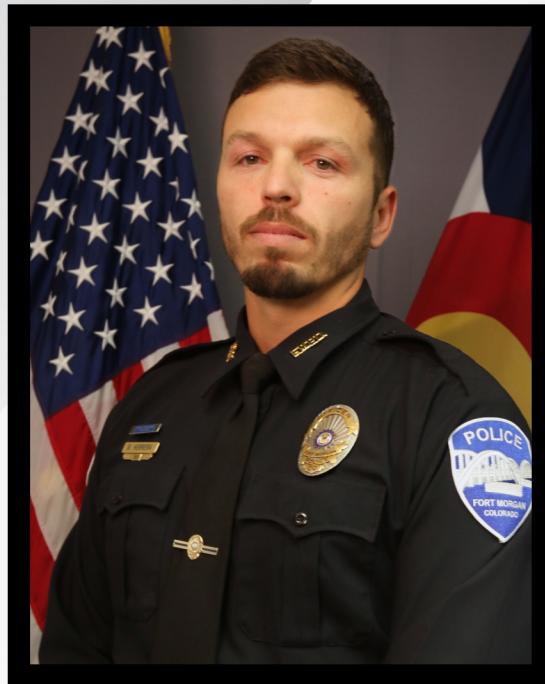
Officer Herrera was amazing. Very compassionate, pleasant, and understanding He definitely represents the city very well.

Very professional and clearly explained the vin check process

Dusty was the officer I dealt with. It was actually a nice interaction with a police officer. Which in a time of extreme turmoil, says a lot. He was empathetic yet experienced and knowledgeable. I appreciate that. That badge makes most seem un human. He did not act that way and that was a blessing. Thank you.

Officer Gonzales was most helpful, and Michelle the dispatcher, too.

Promotions

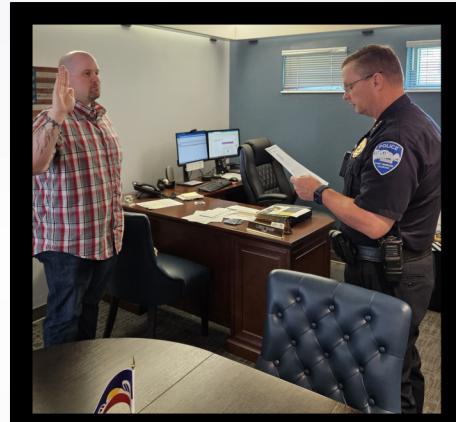


Brian Herrera
Corporal

Swearing In



Cameron Gonzales



Nicholas Skiles



Spencer Hogan



Anthony Chavez-Alvidrez
Franky Loera

Retirement



SRO Tim Malone
31 Years of Service



Detective Ted Thyne
15 Years of Service



Awards and Community Recognition



Citizen Citation for Distinguished Service
Keionda Smith



Citizen Citation for Meritorious Service
Jeffrey, Christine & Jason Wiges



Citizen Citation for Meritorious Service
Jim & Marie Goedert



Life Saving Award
Jose Contreras



Certificate of Appreciation
Yandel Meza

Awards and Community Recognition



Sgt. Caleb Creech



Det. William Bencomo

Unit Citations



Sgt. W. Campbell
Not pictured Officers Dabbs & Quck



Sgt. Anguiano
Det. Bencomo
Not Pictured Det. Shuttleworth

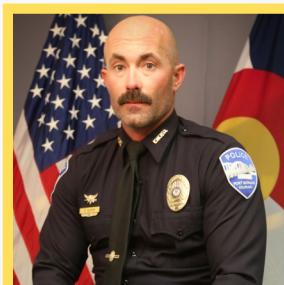


Det. Bencomo, Sgt. Hochanadel, Sgt. Anguiano, Cpl. Chaparro, Ofcr. Renteria
Not Pictured Officers H Altman
Det. Shuttleworth

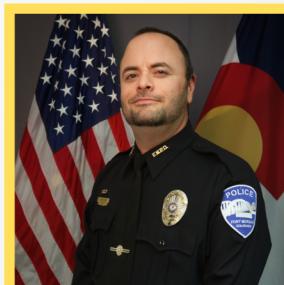
Employee of Quarter



Officer Mai



Officer Quick



Detective Bencomo



Corporal Price

Awards and Community Recognition

Life Saving Award



Officer Zach Lunog

Safe Driving
Sgt Palmer Anguiano -10 yrs
Sgt Wayne Campbell - 5 yrs
Sgt Joe Hochanadel - 5 yrs



Big Hitter Award

The Big Hitter Award started in 2023 and was created to recognize a team that exemplifies excellent teamwork and displays high attention to the department goals which are:

- Maintain high visibility throughout the City of Fort Morgan.
- Build strong relationships with community partners including business owners and employees, citizens, and visitors to the City of Fort Morgan, while collaborating with each other to prioritize teamwork.
- Hold each member of the community and the department accountable while also providing praise when appropriate.

Each month, supervisors explain why they believe their team is deserving of the award, which consists of the possession of the highly coveted trophy and \$50 to spend on the team for a meal, drinks, or whatever is decided by that shift. This is a time for the team to get together to celebrate their success and be recognized for their contributions to the department's overall success.

January's Biggest Hitters
Sgt. Hochanadel's Team was recognized for their proactive enforcement which led to great success in arresting those responsible for crime. They were highly active and efficient.

FEBRUARY'S BIGGEST HITTERS
Sgt. K. Campbell's Team was recognized for their proactive enforcement which led to great success in arresting those responsible for crime. They were highly active and efficient with all three members of Sergeant Campbell's shift being top performers in all but one of the recognized categories this month. In all, they handled 586 calls for service on a night shift and led the department in DUI arrests (5), traffic contacts (106), and tickets issued.

MARCH'S BIG HITTERS
Congratulations to Sergeant Kevin Campbell's shift as the Big Hitters for the month of March! They did an excellent job of staying busy with a variety of things, made numerous arrests, and had top performers in several categories. Great job to Sergeant K. Campbell, Corporal Marcos Montalvo, Officer K. Altman, and Officer H. Altman on all the work you did.

April Big Hitter
They did an excellent job of staying busy with a variety of things, made numerous arrests, and had top performers in several categories. Great job to Sergeant Caleb Creech, Corporal Marcos Montalvo, Officer K. Altman, and Officer H. Altman on all the work you did.

Sept Big Hitter
Sergeant Hochanadel's team was selected due to excellent teamwork in helping cover shifts, high numbers of arrests, and overall excellent activity. This was another tough month to decide as there were several deserving shifts that were very productive, especially in the area of traffic contacts. Overall, the work of the entire department was outstanding and this shift still shined above the others.

June Big Hitter
Sgt. Wayne Campbell's team worked well together and performed well in several areas.

JULY Big Hitter
Sgt. Creech's team was selected for the high numbers of activity in areas of importance.

AUG Big Hitter
Sergeant Hochanadel's team was chosen for the August Big Hitter for their outstanding team effort and overall effectiveness. Not only did they have high productivity in the proactive enforcement area, but they were all consistent with their enforcement and had excellent results from the proactive contacts. Many arrests arose from the enforcement actions that they initiated and they were efficient in handling these arrests.

MAY BIG HITTER
Sergeant Creech's shift was chosen because they were adaptable in assisting others with shift coverage, productive in most every category, and worked together as a team, throughout the entire month.

Oct Big Hitter
Sgt. Wayne Campbell's team was selected due to their excellent teamwork, quality arrests, high traffic contact numbers (led to several arrests) and effective policing methods that include citations. Overall, the work of the entire department was outstanding and this shift still shined above the others.

NOV Big Hitter
Sgt. Campbell's team was selected due to excellent teamwork, high numbers of arrests, and overall efficient and productive activity.

DEC Big Hitter
Sgt. Campbell's was selected due to an extremely high numbers of arrests and overall efficient and productive activity.

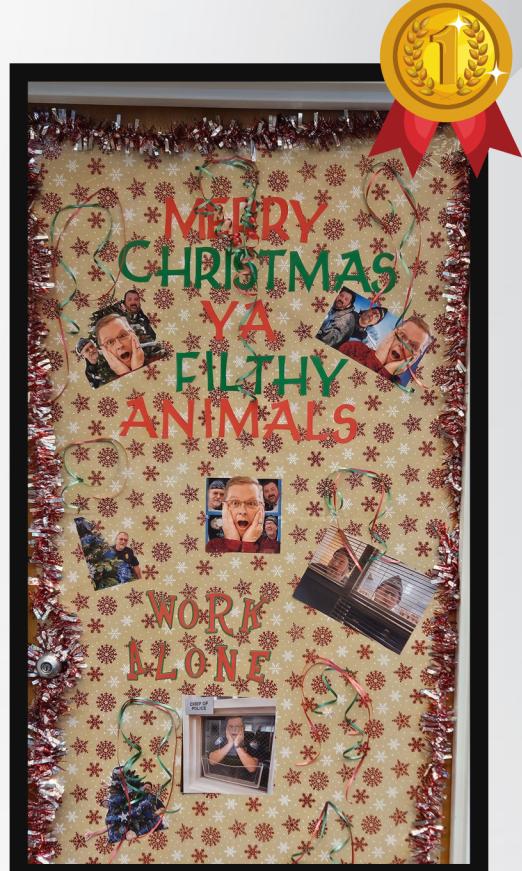
Community Appreciation



Interdepartmental Events



New Year Family Dinner



Door Decorating Contest



New Year Family Dinner



Secret Santa Breakfast

Chief of Police Past & Present

		Served From:	Served To:
1	Frank Anderson	August 1887	April 1889
2	A.L. Wilson	April 1889	July 1890
3	R.W. Atchison	July 1890	April 1891
4	F.J. Dingman	April 1891	April 1894
5	H.S. Pyott	April 1894	May 1894
6	J.H. Farnsworth	May 1894	April 1895
7	James Hall	April 1895	April 1895
8	A.K. Hill	April 1895	April 1899
9	James Hall	April 1899	April 1900
10	A.L. Burdette	April 1900	March 1903
11	C.J. Carlson	March 1903	February 1904
12	A.K. Hill	February 1904	November 1905
13	A.W. Croft	November 1905	February 1906
14	L.M. Davis	March 1906	April 1907
15	J.C. Grahm	May 1907	October 1907
16	J.A. Tilson	October 1907	April 1908
17	S.S. Lamb	April 1908	January 1913
18	R.E. Parker	January 1913	January 1914
19	E.A. Morse	January 1915	June 1917
20	Charles R. Todd	June 1917	December 1918
21	C.J. Carlson	January 1919	December 1919
22	F.W. Quackenbush	January 1920	September 1925
23	Alva Burton	September 1925	December 1927
24	William Hauge	January 1928	February 1931
25	C.J. Carlson	March 1931	December 1931
26	Arthur L. Shaffer	January 1932	February 1938
27	Homer F. Morse	February 1938	March 1958
28	Anthony Erosky	March 1958	June 1959
29	Daniel Dorn	June 1959	July 1960
30	Homer F. Morse	August 1960	January 1962
31	W. Gale Davey	January 1962	December 1980
32	B. Harold Davisson	January 1981	December 2000
33	Keith A. Kuretich	January 2001	September 2013
34	Darin L. Sagel	September 2013	May 2016
35	Paul D. Schultz	January 2017	January 2020
36	Loren G. Sharp	December 2020	

