

CHIEF JEREMY SIEPKER

# ANNUAL REPORT



POLK CITY  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

2023

[www.polkcityia.gov/police-department](http://www.polkcityia.gov/police-department)



(515) 984-6565



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***The Polk City Police Department is dedicated to provide exceptional service to the Polk City Community in order to create a safe and desirable place to live, work and visit. We will enhance public safety by actively seeking and deterring criminal behavior and enforcing the law impartially.***



***SERVICE, INTEGRITY, RESPECT, QUALITY***

# Chief Jeremy Siepker



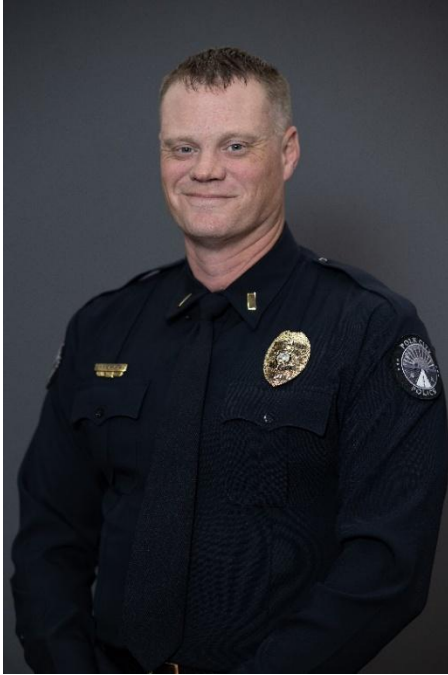
I would like to extend my gratitude for all the support our department has seen over the past year.

We have had a busy year and are feeling the growth of the community. As you will see in the statistics section of this report our calls for service more than doubled from last year. The men and women that make up the Polk City Police Department do an excellent job and are very dedicated to keeping the community safe.

This past year I had the privilege to serve as the Vice-Chairperson for the Polk County Law Enforcement Executives Association (PLEXA). This group is comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement entities within Polk County and the surrounding Des Moines Metro area. In December, I was voted in as the Chairperson for PLEXA organization and will serve in that role for one year.

The annual report is an overview of the Police Departments staffing, call volume and highlights from this past year, I hope you find the content informative.

## **Lieutenant Matt Aswegan**



As Polk City continues to grow, so does our department and the need for our services. In 2023, we responded to more calls for service and investigated more cases than any year in our history.

The successes we have had throughout 2023 would not have been possible without the support of the community and elected officials. We are fortunate to have great relationships with all stakeholders, as we continue to work to keep Polk City a safe place to live and work.



# Officer and Staff Biographies

## Sergeant Nick Sherman

- Night Supervisor
- 2015 graduate of ILEA
- Taser Instructor
- Active Threat Instructor



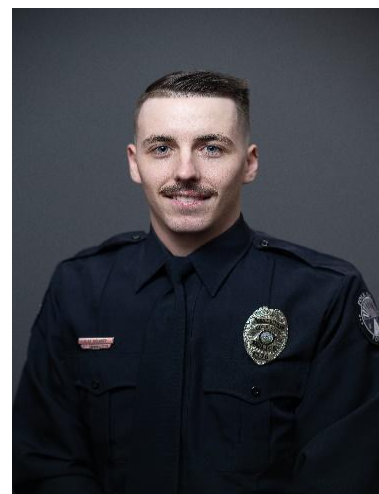
## Officer Matthew Aicher

- Patrol Officer
- Canine Handler
- Standardized Field Sobriety Instructor
- 2008 Graduate of ILEA



## Officer Alex Delaney

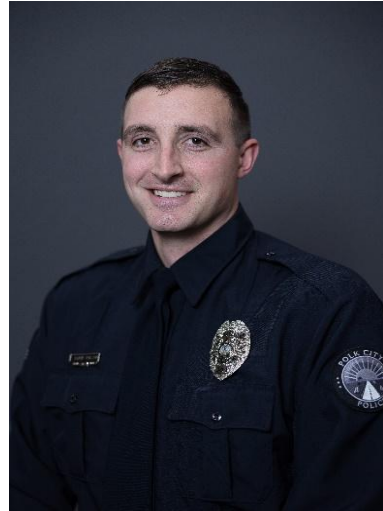
- Patrol Officer
- Field Training Officer
- Expandable Baton Instructor
- 2020 graduate of ILEA



# Officer and Staff Biographies

## Officer Kevin Blaha-Polson

- Patrol Officer
- 2022 graduate of ILEA



## Officer Caitlyn Whipple

- Patrol Officer
- 2022 graduate of ILEA



## Officer Craig Garrison

- Patrol Officer
- 2023 graduate of ILEA





# Officer and Staff Biographies

## Officer Spencer Stover

- Patrol Officer
- 2015 graduate of ILEA



## Support Clerk Jane Jacobson

- Police Support Clerk
- NCIC Certified
- TAC Coordinator
- Polk County Attorney Office Liaison



## **2023 Achievements**

- Continued updating of our patrol fleet as vehicles are needing replaced.
  - This year we added two Chevy Tahoe's to replace an inoperable vehicle and one vehicle that was on a lease agreement and needed to be returned.
- Added a full-time officer, bringing our total staff to **9** officers.
  - This would leave us at approximately 1.6 officers per thousand population according to the 2020 census. With our current estimated population to be close to 7,000 this would drop us to only 1.3 officers per thousand people.
  - In Iowa, for cities with a population of at least 5,000 but under 10,000 they average 1.85 officers per thousand people.
- Created Patrol Sergeant position, currently night shift supervisor.
- The 2nd annual Cops and Bobbers event was held at Big Creek State Park.
- Purchased land for site of future police station.

# **2023 Community Outreach Events**

## **Community Outreach**

- Summer reading program in partnership with the Polk City Library
- Neighborhood meetings with children
- Participation in youth programs with Polk City Parks & Recreation
- Summer Kick Off Event
- Light Up Polk City!
- Trunk or Treat
- Second Annual Cops & Bobbers Event
- Participation in the Polk City Fall Fest
- Participation in the Polk City Four Seasons Mini fest
- RAGBRAI
- Involvement with local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts

# 2023 Community Outreach Events

## Summer Kickoff 2023





# 2023 Community Outreach Events

## Cops & Bobbers 2023





## 2023 Community Outreach Events





# 2023 Community Outreach Events



## 2023 Community Outreach Events



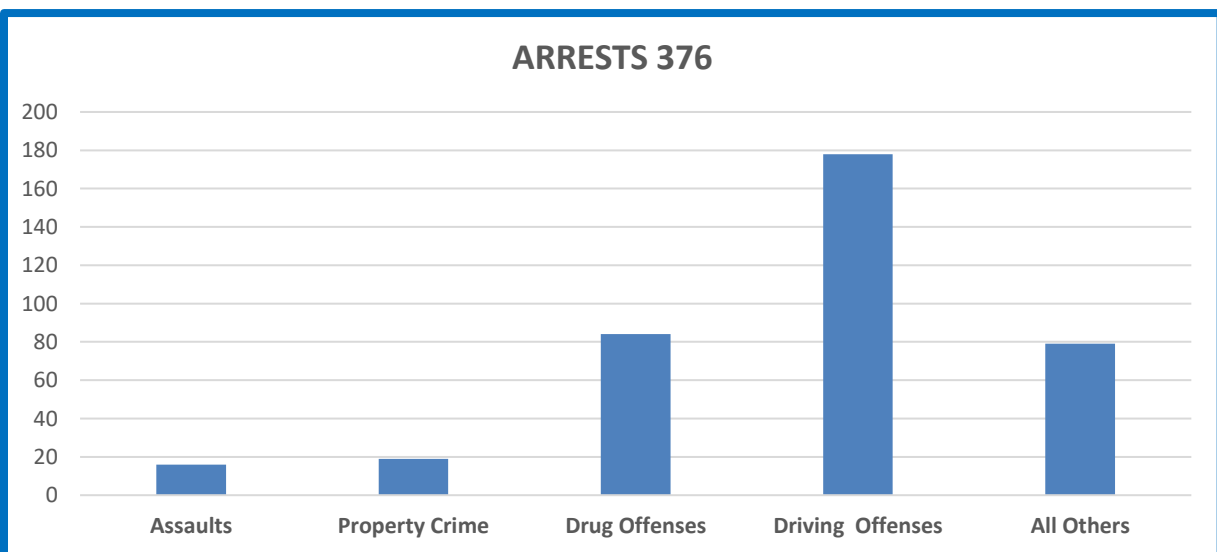
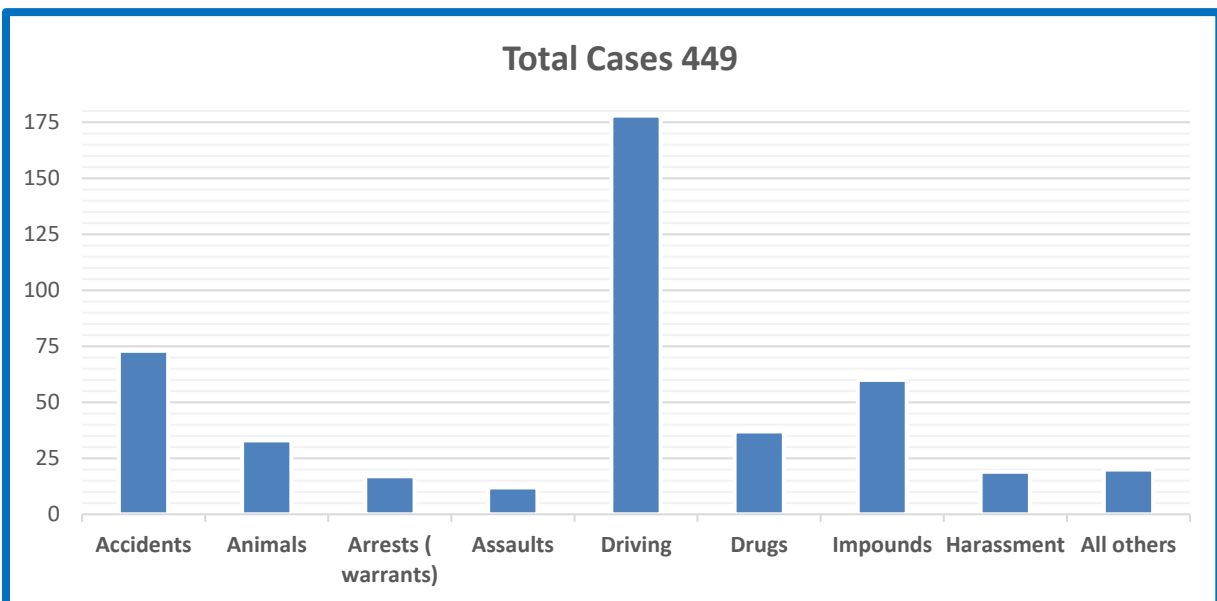


## 2023 Community Outreach Events



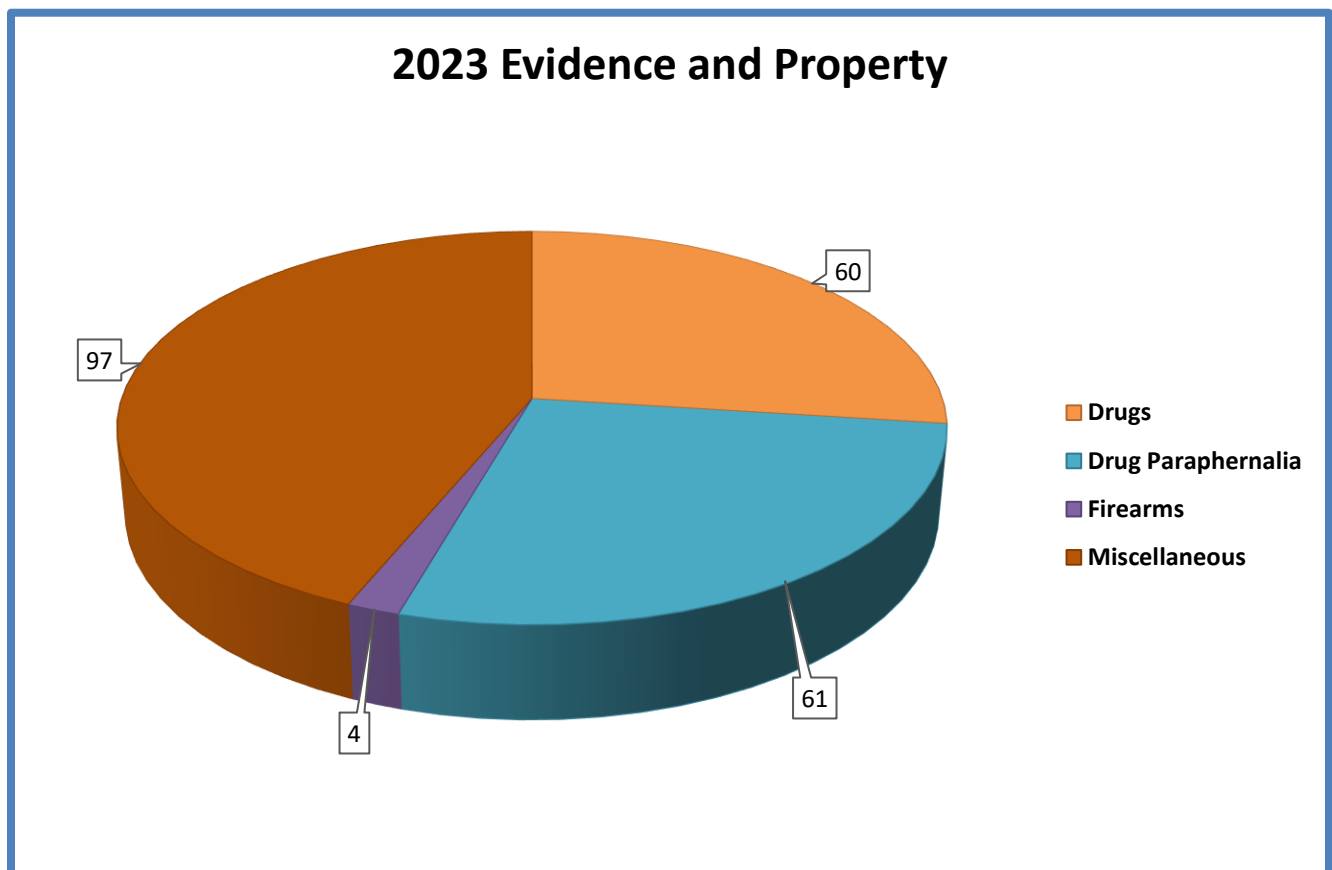
# Patrol Statistics

In 2023 the Polk City Police Department received **7371** calls for service. This is a **56%** increase in calls for service from 2022. This includes citizen reports/complaints, traffic stops, and other self-initiated activities. Officers investigated **449** cases in 2023, which is a **37%** increase from the previous year, and responded to **73** traffic collisions. Officers also made **376** arrests, issued **732** traffic citations, and issued **2198** traffic warnings.



# Property and Evidence

During 2023, the Polk City Police Department entered **61** items containing drugs, **60** items containing drug paraphernalia, **4** firearms or firearms related items and **97** miscellaneous items which include found property and general items of evidence.



## Notable Cases and Events

### 23-0082

A lengthy investigation into drug trafficking occurring in the 300 block of E. Van Dorn ended with the arrest of 4 people on March 7, 2023. On the night of March 6<sup>th</sup>, officers stopped a vehicle leaving a residence where the trafficking was occurring. The male driver was arrested on outstanding arrest warrants. The female passenger was also detained. An Altoona Police K9 responded and deployed on the vehicle. A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of over a pound of methamphetamine, a pound of marijuana, scales, packaging materials and several items of paraphernalia. The driver and passenger were charged with numerous drug charges including 2 counts of Possession of Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver.

A search warrant was issued for the residence the subjects were leaving and Polk City Officers executed that search warrant on the following day. A 66-year-old man and a 38-year-old Polk City woman were arrested on various drug charges including Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Deliver after more methamphetamine and marijuana was found in the residence.





# Notable Cases and Events

23-0029

On January 25<sup>th</sup> at about 3:15 pm a Polk City Police Officer stopped a vehicle because it did not have license plates on it. During the investigation, the officer noted suspicious behavior being exhibited by the driver, who was a 36-year-old Stratford man. The officer requested Polk County Sheriff's Office K9 to respond. The K9 was deployed on the vehicle indicating a positive alert for the odor of narcotics. A search of the vehicle revealed the driver was in possession of approximately 12 grams of methamphetamine and various items of drug paraphernalia. The driver was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Deliver, Fail to Affix Drug Tax Stamp and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was booked into the Polk County jail.



## **Notable Cases and Events**

### **23-0230**

On June 30<sup>th</sup> Polk City Police Officers were dispatched to 3 burglaries of residences under construction. The investigating officer found evidence that linked a local juvenile to the crimes. The officer's investigation resulted in charging of 3 subjects – 2 juveniles and one 19-year-old Grimes man. The subjects were taken into custody the same day as the report. In total, 30 criminal charges were filed in this case, including Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Criminal Mischief and Theft. Most of the stolen property was recovered and returned to the owners.

### **23-0402**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Polk City Police Department learned a 51-year-old Polk City man had outstanding arrest warrants out for his arrest on charges of Theft – 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Parole Violation. Information indicated the subject was known to abuse drugs and was considered armed and dangerous. Officers investigated, which resulted in the officers being able to safely take the subject into custody. He was booked into the Polk County jail on the outstanding warrants and is currently still confined pending court proceedings.

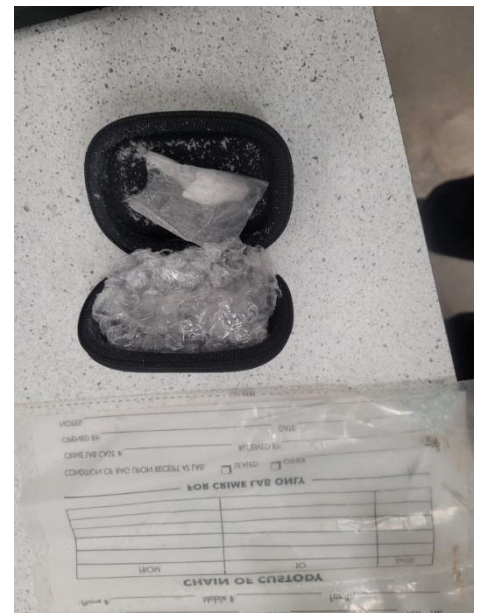
# Notable Cases and Events

**23-0283**

On August 5, 2023, at about 1:00 am a Polk City Police Officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. The vehicle was occupied by three males from Des Moines. An investigation revealed the driver was intoxicated and the passengers were in possession of methamphetamine and a pistol



The driver was charged with OWI-1<sup>st</sup> Offense and numerous traffic offenses. The passengers were charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Persons Ineligible to Carry a Firearm. One of the passengers also had 3 outstanding warrants for their arrest. All three subjects were arrested and booked into the Polk County Jail.



# Forfeitures

Property which is illegally possessed; property which has been used or is intended to be used to facilitate the commission of a criminal offense or to avoid detection or apprehension; and property which is acquired from the proceeds of a criminal offense may be subject to forfeiture.

In 2023 the Polk City Police Department had one seizure related to narcotics trafficking.

Case	Type of seizure	Item Seized	Status
23-0082	Cash	\$17,031.00	Awarded to PD

# K9 Program

The Polk City Police Department K9 team consists of Officer Matt Aicher and K9 Eudoris. Eudoris is a 6-year-old Belgian Malinois / Dutch Shepard. He is a multi-purpose K9. Eudoris is widely considered one of the best police K9's in the area. Eudoris has won several awards for excellence in Patrol work and narcotic detection. In December 2023 Officer Aicher and Eudoris were awarded "Best In Show" and "Best Building Search" from Canine Tactical during the December 2023 Trials.



Since it's inception in 2018, Eudoris has been deployed 154 times. Eudoris has been deployed for narcotic detection 125 times and Patrol Deployments 29 times. Amongst these deployments, Eudoris has assisted in 121 arrests and 90 drug seizures. Eudoris has assisted investigating officers in locating 254 grams of methamphetamine, 329 grams of marijuana, 55 grams of counterfeit fentanyl, 12 grams of heroin and over 200 pieces of drug paraphernalia.

Eudoris is certified through the United States Police Canine Association and Canine Tactical. Officer Aicher and Eudoris conduct at least **16** hours of training every month to maintain their proficiency.

Officer Aicher and Eudoris were deployed **18** times in 2023. **14** of the deployments were for narcotics detection. These deployments helped investigating officers seize 55 grams of counterfeit fentanyl, 12 grams of heroin and user amounts of methamphetamine and cocaine. Over 100 pieces of drug paraphernalia were also seized because of these K9 assisted investigations in 2023.

# K9 Program

## 2023 Deployments

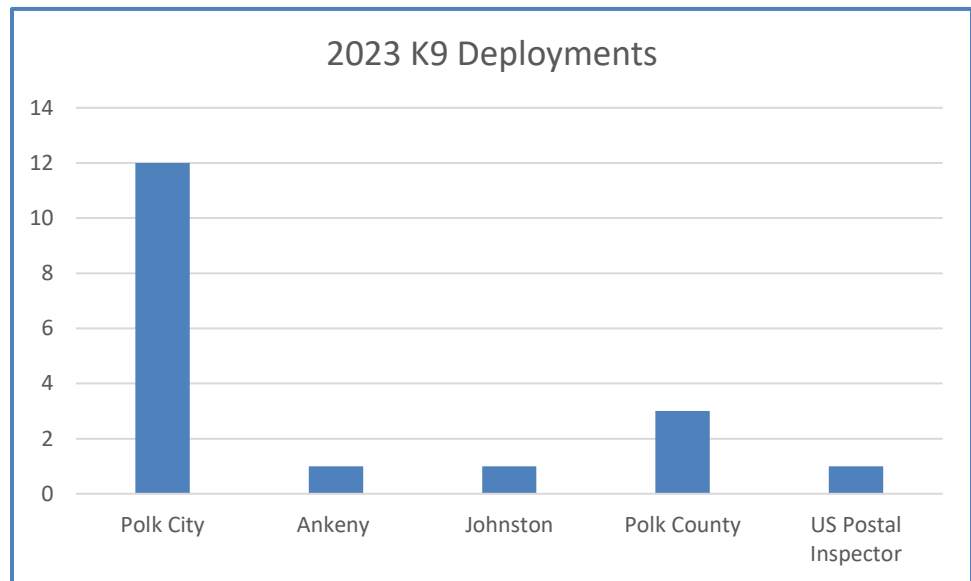
While most of Eudoris' work is done in Polk City, he is occasionally requested to assist area agencies. Among the **18** deployments in 2023, **12** of them were in Polk City and **6** of them were deployments in support of area agencies.

Polk County Sheriffs Office: 3

Ankeny Police Department: 1

Johnston Police Department: 1

US Postal Inspection Service: 1





# **K9 Program**

## **On-going Drug Investigation**

On 3/7/2023 Officer Aicher and Eudoris assisted with a Search Warrant at 318 E Van Dorn Street #7. During the investigation Eudoris was deployed on a suspect's vehicle in the parking lot and alerted to the odor of narcotics coming from within the vehicle. User amounts of narcotics were located which assisted in the on-going narcotic investigation.

## **US Postal Service Assist**

On 4/7/2023 Officer Aicher and Eudoris assisted the United State Postal Service Inspection Office with a Narcotic Investigation. Eudoris was requested to deploy on various packages to determine if the odor of narcotics was present in any of them. One of the packages had been intercepted due to intelligence received from a previous investigation. Eudoris alerted to the odor of narcotics on one of the packages. A search warrant was later received, and the package contained 55grams (.12lbs) of suspected counterfeit fentanyl.

## **Shooting Suspect Identified**

On 9/8/2023 Officer Aicher and Eudoris assisted the Polk County Sheriff's Office on the report of a shooting in Grimes.

During the investigation Eudoris assisted in locating suspects and evidence. During an "Article Search" Eudoris located the Identification Card of a potential suspect.

## K9 Program



## K9 Community Outreach

Throughout the year, Eudoris makes showings at public events to showcase his abilities. In 2023, Officer Aicher and Eudoris went to North Polk High School to give a presentation.



# **Code Enforcement**

The past few years Police Department manages Municipal Code Enforcement for the city. This includes nuisance abatement and municipal infractions. Code enforcement is typically initiated through a complaint from a citizen through our online reporting process. A completed Violation Complaint Form submitted to the department is investigated.

In 2023 the department formally investigated and addressed 37 code violations. Violations are typically resolved by the property owner upon them being made aware of the violation and no further action is taken by the department.

Going forward, we will be working with the Building Inspector to address municipal code infractions.

# GTSB Program

The Polk City Police Department participates in the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) and receives funding for traffic safety initiatives. The grant pays for equipment such as Preliminary Breath Tests, in-car video cameras, radars, and several other pieces of equipment to assist in the detection and deterrence of traffic related offenses. A portion of the grant is allotted for overtime wages specifically for officers to engage in traffic safety enforcement efforts.

In 2023, Polk City PD used the grant to purchase a mobile radar for one of the new patrol cars. Several hours of overtime enforcement hours were worked by patrol officers resulting in 206 traffic contacts, including 10 impaired driving contacts, 13 occupant protection contacts, 64 speeding contacts and 119 miscellaneous violations.



# Training Summary

The Police Department continued a well-established training program throughout 2023. Our training program is comprised of a combination of in-service training and specialty schools. In-service training is conducted monthly and delivered by department instructors. Specialty schools are done through external resources which include the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and a number of law enforcement education companies.

## In-Service Topics Include:

- Firearms training
- Officer Safety and Tactics
- Scenario Based Training
- Law Updates
- Use of Force
- Emergency Vehicle Operations
- Hazardous Materials
- Mandatory Reporting
- Mental Health Awareness Training
- Implicit Bias Awareness Training
- Medical training

## Specialty Schools Include:

- Effective Policing Skills & Tactics Course
- Highway Drug Investigations for Patrol
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Investigations
- Taser Instructor School
- Leading without Rank
- Basic Patrol Rifle Operator School
- Command & Control 101

# Training Summary

In 2023, Polk City Police Officers received a combined **3,052** hours of individual training.

## Individual Officer Training:

Chief Siepker:	42 hours
Lt. Aswegan:	434 hours
Sgt. Sherman:	133 hours
Officer Aicher:	250 hours
Officer Delaney:	101 hours
Officer Blaha- Polson:	420 hours
Officer Whipple:	415 hours
Officer Garrison:	839 hours
Officer Stover:	418 hours





# Training Summary

In January 2023, Lt. Aswegan successfully completed Northwestern University's School of Police Staff & Command. This course is an intensive leadership and management education program that helps prepare experienced law enforcement professionals for success in senior command positions.



# Training Summary

In 2023, Officer Craig Garrison graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy's Regional Academy held at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo. Officer Garrison was hired in July 2023 and qualified for a shortened academy because he has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Officer Garrison successfully completed the academy and attained state certification as a peace officer in October 2023.



# Training Summary





# Training Summary



# Training Summary



# Special Recognitions

Every day, our patrol staff does excellent work. These men and women commonly go the extra mile to deter and investigate crime, provide medical assistance, and help victims of crime. We want to take this time in our annual report to recognize some notable events these officers were involved in:

- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Officer Delaney responded to a medical call at Fareway. By the time he arrived, CPR was being administered on scene by bystanders. Officer Delaney directed continued CPR and used the AED to deliver life-saving treatment to the patient. Polk City EMS arrived and continued care of the patient. The patient survived the life-threatening condition thanks to the quality of care delivered by Officer Delaney.
- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Officer Aicher and Officer Whipple were dispatched to a report of a person preparing to commit suicide by jumping off the Mile Long Bridge. They arrived and immediately began a dialogue with the man, who was sitting on the edge about to jump. The officers were able to convince the man to come off the ledge. After the man came off the ledge, officers took assisted him until the Polk County Sheriff's Office arrived and transported the man for mental health treatment.
- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Officer Delaney responded to a report of a gunshot wound right outside of town. The injury was a result of a hunting accident. Upon arriving at the scene, Officer Delaney applied a tourniquet and stabilized the scene until medical personnel arrived. Officer Delaney's quick action resulted in the victim of the accident surviving.
- On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Officer Aicher and Officer Poen responded to an address in town for a cardiac arrest. Upon arrival both officer's administered CPR and used the AED to deliver life-saving treatment to the patient. This patent survived thanks to the care from Officer Aicher, Officer Poen and the PCFD staff.



## **Complaints 2023**

Chief Siepker and Lt. Aswegan log all complaints made on PCPD staff. All formal complaints are logged and investigated. These are handled per PCPD policy and procedures. The content of these investigations is confidential, but the number of complaints will be compiled and listed in this section of the annual report. In 2023 there were no formal complaints filed on any member of PCPD staff.