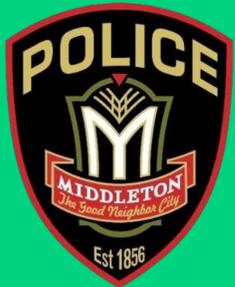


Middleton Police Department



"Committed to cultivating trust and safety in our community"



Respect
Integrity
Service
Excellence

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Citizens of Middleton, Mayor Kuhn, Elected Officials, Police Commission Members, Public Safety Committee Members, City Administrator Bryan Gadow, fellow Department Heads and Police Department Staff, on behalf of the women and men of the Middleton Police Department, I present you with our 2024 annual report.

It is with great honor and excitement to be writing my first annual chief's message as Chief of Police for the Middleton Police Department. After proudly serving the City of New Berlin, Wisconsin Police for just over 18 years, I was honored to be appointed Chief of Police for the City of Middleton. On January 24th, 2025, my family and friends stood by as I was officially sworn in as the 13th Chief of Police for this great city. The

ceremony was a wonderful experience for me and my family and that is a testament to the overall culture of this city. Thank you to all those who helped in making that experience so memorable for us and thank you to the Middleton Police Commission for believing in me.

In the short time I have been chief, I have been extremely impressed with our police department during this pivotal transition. Every member of our police family has treated me with nothing but kindness and respect. I have been truly welcomed with open arms, and I cannot describe how comforting of a feeling that is to me. The same can be said with the rest of the city government departments. I have received a tremendous amount of support from my city coworkers, and I look forward to working with all of you.

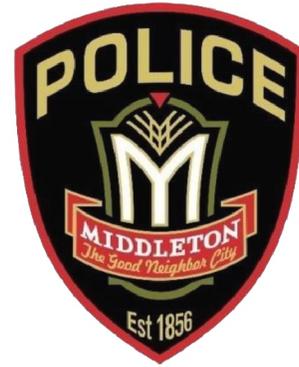
When you look at our data, you will see that Middleton is a very safe city overall. This can be attributed to the proactive crime prevention strategies we employ along with the valuable partnerships we have forged within the community. It is very clear that the people of Middleton care deeply about safety and understand that it directly contributes to a great quality of life.

To maintain that high quality of life, we will need to prioritize adequate police staffing levels to ensure Middleton remains one of the safest cities in Wisconsin. Police officer shortages continue to be a realization around the country, and we will need to remain diligent in our recruitment and retention efforts moving forward. It will continue to be our goal to attract and retain the most talented people to serve as police officers for our great city.

Lastly, I want to thank now retired Chief Troy Hellenbrand for handing over such a great police department. Your years of hard work and dedication to the Middleton Police Department are profoundly evident in the professionalism I see every day as I walk through the halls of this beautiful police department.

MISSION

The Middleton Police Department is committed to *cultivating trust and safety in our community.*



VISION

We will be leaders in our community. We are committed to protecting lives, enforcing laws, maintaining order, and protecting the rights of everyone. In our personal and professional lives, we will model **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **S**ervice, and **E**xcellence.

VALUES

We will **RISE** above to meet the challenges in our community.

Respect

- We will treat everyone with dignity and compassion.
- We will listen and act on the needs of our community.

Integrity

- We will be trustworthy, moral, and ethical in all we do professionally and personally.

Service

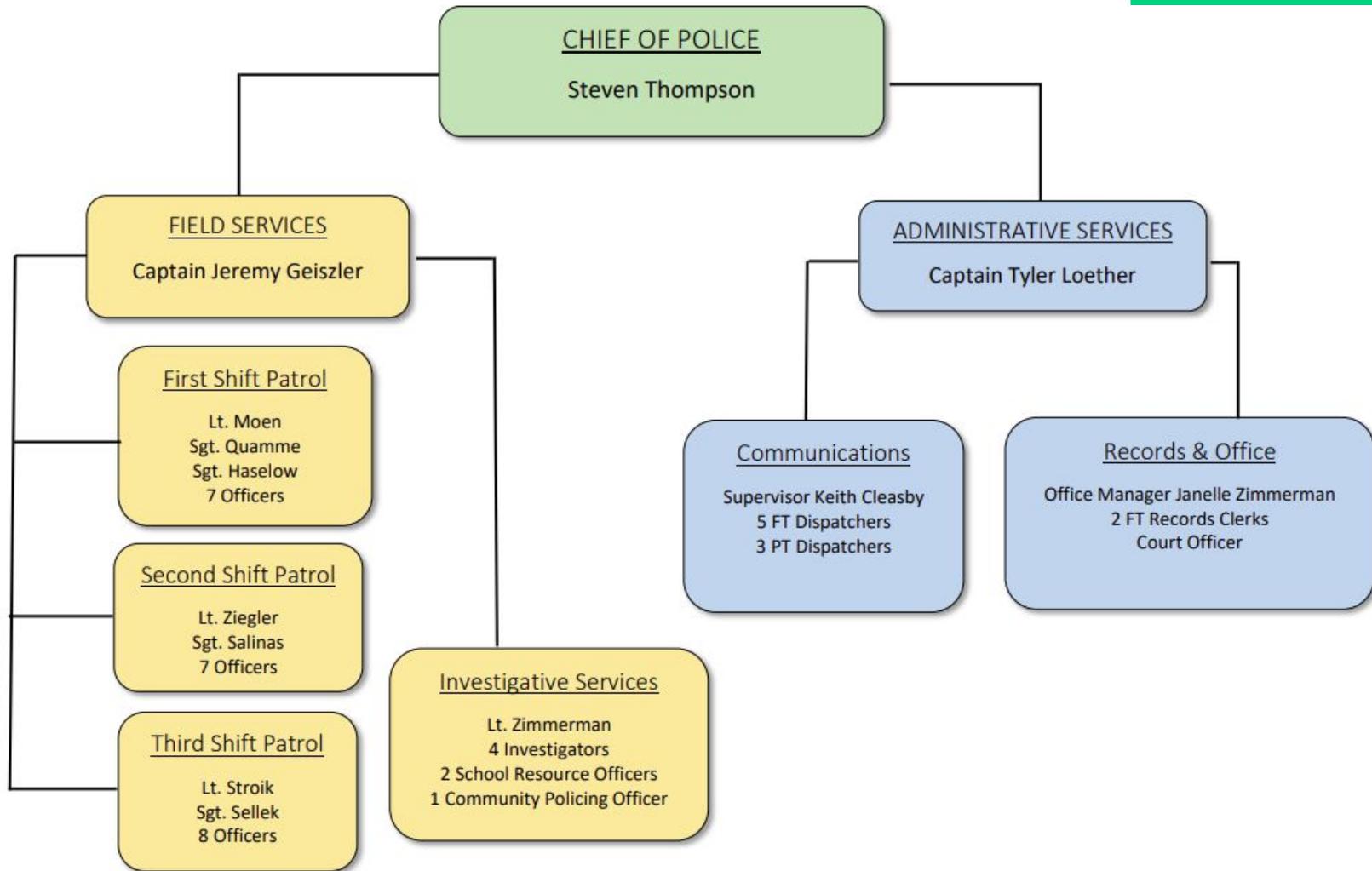
- We will put the community above ourselves, making intentional decisions and actions to benefit the public.
- We will be professional in all our interactions.

Excellence

- We will maintain a high level of standards and performance through training, education, adaptation, and innovation.



Organization Chart



New Hires

In January 2024, we started the year by hiring four officers.



Alonzo Blevins is a graduate of Deforest Area High School and attended UW-Stout & Madison College studying criminal justice. Alonzo was previously an intern at our department and is a graduate of the law enforcement academy at Madison College.

Ryan McKenzie is from Springfield, Illinois. He has attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has a criminal justice degree from Madison College. Ryan also attended the law enforcement academy at Madison College and was an intern at our department.



Ben Jablonski is from Chicago, Illinois. He attended Harper College for Arts & Public Service and is a graduate of the law enforcement academy at Madison College.

Lucas May has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Mid-State Tech and is a U.S. Navy Reserve. Lucas came to us as a graduate of the Law Enforcement Academy at Mid-State Tech and immediately started field training.



Stephen Holland was sworn in as an officer in March. Stephen was raised in Cross Plains and is a graduate of Middleton High School. He attended Madison College and UW-Madison. Stephen is a member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard as an IT specialist and is a graduate of the Fox Valley Technical College Law Enforcement Academy.

Gavin Anderson was sworn in as an officer in June. Gavin is from New Richmond, graduated from UW Stevens Point with a major in Conservation Law Enforcement, and completed the 720-hour Law Enforcement Academy at Mid-State Technical College.



Myles Schumaker was sworn in as an officer in August. He is from Elkhorn and is a graduate of UW-Whitewater where he competed in rugby, and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. Myles is a graduate of the Madison College police academy.

Steve Elliott started as our newest dispatcher in July. Steve is a graduate of the University of Akron with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. His previous work history includes time as a volunteer firefighter, a Tobacco Enforcement Specialist for the US Food and Drug Administration, and an Operations Specialist Second Class for the U.S. Navy.



Judy Wallander started with us as a part-time dispatcher in December. Judy comes to us with 45 years of dispatch experience. She retired as a dispatch supervisor from Rock County and also has experience dispatching in Manitowoc County and, most recently, for Fitchburg Police Department.

Promotions

In May, **Nick Stroik** was promoted to the rank of Patrol Lieutenant. Lieutenant Stroik started his career with the Middleton Police Department in 2008 and has served as a Field Training Officer, Evidence Technician, and acting Patrol Sergeant. He is our training supervisor and an instructor in multiple disciplines. Lieutenant Stroik is also a member of our Crisis Intervention Team and the coordinator of our Special Response Team. He is the third shift commander.



In September, **Beka Jacobsen** was promoted to Court Officer. The Court Officer ensures that criminal cases are properly submitted to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution and also has a key role in maintaining our evidence and property systems. Beka is a graduate of Waukesha County Technical College and has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. She is also a part-time dispatcher with us.

Steven Thompson was selected as the Chief of Police in December 2024, starting in January 2025. Chief Thompson brings nearly 20 years of law enforcement experience, including leadership roles as Captain of Patrol and Special Services, Public Information Officer, and Crisis Negotiation Team Leader with the New Berlin Police Department. He has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administrative Leadership and is a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.



Assignments



Kim Wood was assigned to a permanent detective position in August which was effective January 2025. Kim has been with the department since 2006 and has served in a number of roles during her career including the rotating detective position, Field Training Officer and, most recently, School Resource Officer at Middleton High School.

Kevin Thompson was selected to be the School Resource Officer at Middleton High School to fill the vacancy created by Detective Wood. Kevin started this new role at the end of the year. Kevin came to us in 2021 and has four years of experience with the Oregon Police Department.



Aleesha Kozar was appointed to the rotating detective role in December, effective in 2025. Aleesha started her career with us in 2021. She is a Field Training Officer, member of the Crisis Intervention Team, and is a Defensive Tactics instructor with our department.

Retirements

Chief **Troy Hellenbrand** retired in December after 26 years of service to the city and a combined 31 years as a sworn officer. Chief Hellenbrand served in multiple roles over the years including School Resource Officer, Detective, Detective Sergeant, Captain, and his last five years as Chief.



Sergeant **Mike Wood** retired in December after nearly 21 years with the city and 30 years of service as a police officer. Sergeant Wood served in multiple positions included Field Training Officer, Special Events Team member, motorcycle officer, and sergeant.



On **January 4, 2024**, emergency services were dispatched to the Middleton Municipal Airport, 8300 Airport Road, for the report of an airplane that overturned. Investigation showed that the plane was only occupied by the pilot and was westbound on the runway when it started to pull to the left. The plane went off the runway and, as the front wheel got caught in the mud, it overturned. Luckily there were no reported injuries.



On **February 8, 2024**, Larry Williamson and Corvalis Stewart rented an airplane at the Middleton Municipal Airport. Williamson flew them both to Phoenix, Arizona to pick up drugs. Federal and state law enforcement officials received information about Williamson and Stewart and their suspicious behavior in Arizona. Officer Howard Statz and his partner, K9 Szeci, were asked to assist when the plane returned to Middleton. The investigation located 19 pounds of methamphetamine and 200,000 fentanyl pills. This was the largest fentanyl seizure in Dane County, with an estimated street value of \$2,000,000. Both subjects were arrested and charged federally. Williamson was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison followed by 8 years of supervised release. Stewart was sentenced to 16 years in federal prison and 8 years of supervised release.

Shortly after 7:40pm on **February 18, 2024**, a 34-year-old female, armed with a handgun, opened fire at her family members inside an apartment in the 6300 block of Maywood Avenue. A 31-year-old male was struck by gunfire multiple times as he exited the residence. Two children, an 8-year-old female and a 5-year-old male, were struck and killed by gunfire. The adult female, and mother of the children, then turned the gun on herself and ended her own life. The adult male, who is the father of the deceased children, was hospitalized with gunshot injuries, but survived the attack. Subsequent investigation discovered that another woman, Shawna Tantillo, had purchased the firearm used in this incident on behalf of the deceased female in what is known as a "straw purchase." Tantillo knew that the female was a convicted felon which prevented her from being able to purchase a firearm. Tantillo was charged with the straw purchase in federal court. She pled guilty to the charge in August 2024 and was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison followed by 3 years of supervised release.

In **March 2024**, the Middleton Police Department received anonymous information about possible drug activity at a local hotel. A detective took the information and started conducting surveillance of a suspect vehicle. On March 12, officers responded to the hotel and found the suspect vehicle's alarm sounding, but the vehicle was unoccupied. The officers found marijuana, fentanyl pills, a scale, and packaging materials in plain view in the vehicle. The detective was able to make contact with the suspect, Deamonte Lucas, during a traffic stop approximately one week later. A search of the vehicle located fentanyl pills, oxycodone, cocaine, and marijuana. Lucas was charged with multiple drug offenses and is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

At approximately 8:43 PM on **October 5, 2024**, officers were dispatched to a strong-armed robbery at a restaurant in the 6900 block of University Avenue. The caller reported a subject wearing a red mask had entered the restaurant and stole the tip jar from the counter. The suspect said that he had a gun, but none was seen. He then fled out the back door and ran eastbound. No arrests have been made in this case yet, but if you have any information, please contact the Middleton Police Department at (608) 824-7300 or Madison Area Crime Stoppers at 608-266-6014, or on the web at P3TIPS.COM. Crime Stoppers tipsters can remain anonymous.

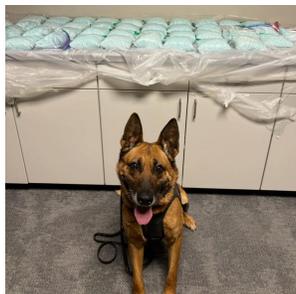
2024 was another great year for our K9 Team. K9 Szeci and K9 Officer Statz had wonderful opportunities to meet with members of the community and share all things Szeci. K9 Szeci continues to enjoy attending and demonstrating at local schools. Officer Statz and Szeci are always proud to show off their skills and teach people about the important work Police K9s do for our community. K9 Szeci performed for many groups this year. Some of his favorites were the Citizen's Academy, the Youth Academy, and National Night Out!



Officer Statz and K9 Szeci had another successful year on patrol. They were deployed over 40 times all over Dane County. A particular incident in which K9 Szeci assisted occurred at the Middleton Airport. Two subjects rented a plane and flew to southern Arizona and transported a large quantity of narcotics back to Wisconsin.

In early February 2024, K9 Officer Statz was contacted by members of the Dane County Narcotics Task Force about a possible operation at the Middleton Airport. K9 Officer Statz assisted in locating and identifying the suspects' vehicles. K9 Szeci conducted preemptive sniffs on the suspects' vehicles and indicated on one of the vehicles.

K9 Officer Statz and K9 Szeci joined a group of local, state, and federal law enforcement officials in an operation to intercept the shipment of narcotics. Once the plane landed at the Middleton Airport, K9 Officer Statz and K9 Szeci assisted in apprehending the suspects after they exited the plane. A second sniff of the vehicles was conducted and K9 Szeci alerted the team to the presence of narcotics. One of the subjects was seen placing several duffle bags inside a vehicle prior to being apprehended.



After K9 Szeci's indication, the team located these bags and uncovered 17 pounds of Methamphetamine and over 42 pounds (250,000) of Fentanyl pills. The total street value of the seized narcotics is estimated to be over two million dollars. This is believed to be one of the largest seizures in Dane County history. K9 Szeci and K9 Officer Statz were happy to help the Dane County Narcotics Task Force.

K9 Szeci is a big hit at the Police Department. He is always happy to run up to his partners and force them to play tug-of-war with him. K9 Szeci looks forward to meeting future supporters and showing off his skills!



Officer Statz & K9 Szeci received an **Exceptional Service Commendation Award** from the Dane County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in one of the largest drug busts in Dane County.



Awards

In 2024, the Middleton Police Department Awards Committee held their annual meeting to review cases and various achievements to determine which of our employees would receive recognition. The awards were handed out in a spring ceremony during Police Week. Congratulations to all employees who were recognized!

Significant Anniversaries

- Officer Slobodan Rozic – 5 years as of July 2024
- Dispatcher Caitlin Olewinski – 5 years as of April 2024
- Dispatcher Stacie Zwettler – 10 years as of May 2024
- Officer David Schultz – 10 years as of April 2024
- Lieutenant Scott Moen – 15 years as of April 2024
- Officer Jesse Sellek – 15 years as of April 2024
- Sergeant Jessica Quamme – 15 years as of November 2023
- Dispatch Supervisor Keith Cleasby – 15 years as of August 2023
- Officer Nicholas Stroik – 15 years as of May 2023
- Sergeant Michael Wood – 20 years as of March 2024
- Chief Troy Hellenbrand – 25 years as of February 2024

Lifesaving – Narcan

Lifesaving – Narcan awards are awarded to any employee whose action directly contributed to the saving or significant prolonging of a human life by the deployment of Naloxone (Narcan). For a number of years, our department has kept a supply of Narcan in each squad car due to seeing an increase in overdoses in our area. In 2024, there were a number of officers awarded in this category for their quick thinking and delivering Narcan to a patient in need in the field.

The 2024 award recipients were:

- Officer Costin Turtureanu
- Officer David Schultz
- Officer Nicholas Miazga

Lifesaving

On **October 27, 2023**, at approximately 2:14pm, officers were dispatched to assist with a pulseless non-breather in the 3600 block of Lynn Court. The dispatch information was that the caller's wife "just passed out," and the caller was doing chest compressions. Dispatch could hear agonal breathing in the background.

Officer Ryan Roettger arrived first, summoned the next officer to grab the AED, and located the patient. **Lieutenant Scott Moen** and **Officer Brittany Blankenship** arrived next. Lieutenant Moen and Officer Roettger were able to move the patient, a 73-year-old woman, into an open area, and assess her. No pulse was observed so they took turns doing compressions while Officer Blankenship delivered the AED. **Officer Matt Jacobs** arrived on scene to assist along with EMS and MIFD. Officer Blankenship was able to obtain pertinent medical information and occupy the caller so that emergency personnel were able to continue lifesaving efforts without interruption.

Officer Jacobs assisted with compressions while EMS evaluated the patient. During compressions the patient began to breathe. She was ultimately shocked twice with the AED and the patient had return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC). She was transported to the hospital by Middleton EMS for further care.

Middleton EMS advised that, due to the high quality, immediate CPR that occurred, the patient was resuscitated and was talking to them by the time she got to the hospital. Officers on scene should be commended for their team effort to save this woman's life. Their quick response and actions on scene led to a successful ending and the saving of a life!

On **February 25, 2024**, at 3:40pm, dispatch advised of an EMS call at 2227 Wood Road. The caller stated there was a female lying face down in the road and that she was not moving. He later told Officer Jacobs that he had seen the woman running approximately two minutes before finding her in the roadway. The caller immediately dialed 911 and got first responders enroute.

Officer Brittany Blankenship was the first officer to arrive on scene and advised dispatch she could not feel a pulse and would be starting chest compressions. **Sergeant Jessica Quamme** arrived on scene and took over chest compressions while Officer Blankenship placed the AED pads on the patient. Middleton Paramedics arrived on scene shortly thereafter and placed the woman on the cot. Once the female was placed on the cot, **Officer Nick Miazga** took over compressions in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Officer Miazga continued providing chest compressions until he was advised by paramedics that the female had regained a pulse on the way to the hospital.

The patient was out for a run when she suffered a spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD) resulting in a heart attack. She was admitted to the Cardiac ICU, and by the following day she was awake and able to answer questions with head nods. By the following morning, she was up and walking, and she returned home to her family only four days after her heart attack.

Officer Brittany Blankenship, Officer Nick Miazga, and Sergeant Jessica Quamme should be commended for their efforts during this incident. Their quick response and actions on scene resulted in saving a life. Well done!

Exceptional Performance

On **Sunday, February 18, 2024**, the Middleton Police Department responded to a double murder/suicide with an additional attempted homicide. At approximately 7:30 p.m., Middleton police officers were in the 6300 block of Maywood Avenue on an unrelated incident. At that time, they heard gunshots, and they came into contact with a male subject who had run out of an apartment. The male had been shot by a subject he identified as the mother of his children.

One officer took cover and attempted to maintain verbal contact with the suspect inside. Placing her own safety at risk as it was unknown where the shooter was, **Officer Brittany Blankenship** assisted the male to his feet and escorted him away from danger. A short time later, **Officer Gerald Kapinos** and **Lieutenant Steve Ziegler** arrived on scene. Officers immediately summoned Middleton EMS and continued to assess the patient, who had been shot several times. Officer Kapinos worked to secure a warm zone so EMS could come get the victim while Lieutenant Ziegler took command of the chaotic scene. He coordinated the response of numerous mutual aid units including the Dane County Tactical Response Team and a crisis negotiator.

Detective Lieutenant Darrin Zimmerman was contacted while off duty and was the next supervisor to arrive on scene. He coordinated additional resources needed for the investigation which included contacting **Detective Slobodan Rozic** who was immediately tasked with drafting a search warrant for the residence. Once the gravity of the situation was known, Lieutenant Zimmerman also requested the assistance of detectives from both Fitchburg and Sun Prairie Police Departments as well as the Wisconsin State Crime Lab and the Dane County Crime Response Unit. Lieutenant Zimmerman managed this significant investigation over the next several weeks.

Detective Rozic was the lead investigator for this homicide investigation and, in addition to drafting the search warrant for the residence, he was also responsible for searching the apartment and documenting the evidence located. Detective Rozic also interviewed the surviving victim and his wife and conducted searches of multiple cell phones. His significant efforts in this case assisted another detective in obtaining a federal indictment of a neighbor for her involvement in the straw purchase of the firearm used in this incident.

While all of this was taking place on scene, **Dispatcher Tom Adler** was in the communications center by himself. In addition to responsibilities of managing the radio and updating the CAD during a chaotic situation, he was also tasked with making numerous calls to request assistance from additional MIPD officers and dispatchers as well as a number of outside agencies.

Despite the tragic outcome of this incident, the exemplary teamwork and actions taken by these Middleton Police Department employees are worthy of recognition. Everyone involved in this incident played a significant role, but the above-named employees should be particularly commended for their exceptional performance in a very difficult situation.



The Middleton Police Department has a long-standing commitment to community policing, which starts with the strong partnerships we build with the people we serve. These relationships create the foundation for open dialogue and collaborative problem-solving when concerns arise. While our officers are always working closely with community members, we also have a more formal Neighborhood Program in place to support and strengthen these efforts.

Neighborhood officers focus on solving everyday issues that affect residents' quality of life. Some of the most common concerns they help address include ongoing noise complaints, disputes between neighbors, animal issues, alcohol violations, suspected drug activity, and areas with a high number of service calls.

The City of Middleton is divided into three patrol districts, with at least one dedicated police officer assigned to each district at all times. These officers work in the same neighborhoods daily, allowing them to build strong relationships with residents and local stakeholders. By becoming familiar with the area and its unique needs, they can respond quickly and effectively with the right resources.

As Middleton continues to grow, more multi-family apartment buildings have been developed, bringing more people into smaller areas. With that growth comes an increase in calls for police service, which can sometimes affect the quality of life for residents. To help address this, officers are now assigned to apartment communities with higher populations or more frequent calls for service. These officers work directly with property managers and residents to better understand concerns, build relationships, and improve our response to community needs. The following apartments are assigned to the corresponding officer:

Arbor Lakes	Officer Jake Ungerer
Meadow Ridge & The Aviary (Lisa Lane)	Officer Jesse Sellek
Spring Tree	Officer David Schultz

Our third-shift officers working from 11pm to 7am are also an important part of our community policing efforts. Each night-shift officer is assigned a local tavern as part of their neighborhood responsibilities. They regularly conduct bar checks and build relationships with bar owners and staff. This proactive approach helps the department quickly identify and address any concerns, working together with the community to ensure our local establishments remain safe and welcoming places for everyone.

If you have any questions about our neighborhood officers and our community policing efforts, please contact me at dhaselow@cityofmiddleton.us or at 608-824-7321.

All too often, we have found that society's response to someone in crisis can place mental health consumers in the criminal justice system when a more appropriate response may have connected them with mental health services, instead. The Middleton Police Department recognizes that we must work with our community members to help people in crisis. Our officers are trained to effectively communicate with both the mental health consumer and the resources that are available to him/her.

The Middleton Police Department recognizes that mental health is a continuous health condition that many in our community treat and live with on a long-term basis. In 2024, Middleton Police Officers responded to 630 calls for service involving mental health consumers. Our goal is to be an option for someone to get assistance before they are in crisis--to have a trusting relationship that allows us to help them get the services they need. We assist individuals in our community who need mental health services, are displaying signs of mental instability and are potentially unsafe. We are always working to establish relationships and help mental health consumers navigate their way through the mental health system.

When an at-risk mental health consumer is identified, an officer from our CIT is assigned to work with him/her. That Crisis Intervention-trained officer then works with the mental health consumer to link them to appropriate, effective services and resources. This can be on long-term, ongoing relationship that helps keep community members safe and better able to function in society.

Our Crisis Intervention Team consists of the following 25 officers:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Officer Slobodan Rozic | Officer Nick Miazga |
| Officer Alonzo Blevins | Officer Cassidy Ruchti |
| Officer Julie Carbon | Officer Brittany Blankenship |
| Officer Gerald Kapinos | Officer Ryan McKenzie |
| Officer Howard Statz | Officer Myles Schumaker |
| Officer Matt Jacobs | Detective Jill Tutaj |
| Officer David Schultz | Detective Kim Wood |
| Officer Kevin Thompson | Detective Aleesha Kozar |
| Officer Tom Wilson | Sergeant Dave Haselow |
| Officer Todd Dart | Sergeant Jessica Quamme |
| Officer Jake Ungerer | Sergeant Cesar Salinas |
| Officer Lucas May | Lieutenant Nick Stroik |
| Officer Ryan Roettger | |

If you have any questions about Middleton Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team, please contact me at dhaselow@cityofmiddleton.us or 608-824-7321.

From the desk of SRO Julie Carbon:

During the Spring Semester of the 2023/2024 school year, I completed several Alcohol and Drug presentations to our 8th grade health classes, including the importance of saying no.



During the Fall Semester of the 2024/2025 school year, Officer Cassidy Ruchti filled in for me while I was on restricted duty and subsequent maternity leave. She participated with the elementary schools' staff during orientation week on our active threat drills, which included barricading and the use of our active threat protocol.

She presented to 6th and 8th grade classes at Kromrey on Internet Safety and their Digital Footprint. In October of 2024, the MCPASD Safety and Security team hosted a Reunification Information Night which was well attended by district families. Officer Ruchti is also hosting a Ladies in Law Enforcement

club at Kromrey Middle School. This club offers students a look at women in different career paths.

During our Spring Semester of the 2023/2024 school year, I responded to 43 calls for service at Kromrey Middle School and seven calls for service at our elementary schools. Also, six citations and 12 warnings were issued, and there were zero arrests. During our Fall Semester of the 2024/2025 school year, Officer Ruchti responded to 88 calls for service at Kromrey Middle School and 14 calls for service at our elementary schools. Also, zero citations and 12 warnings were issued, and there were two arrests.



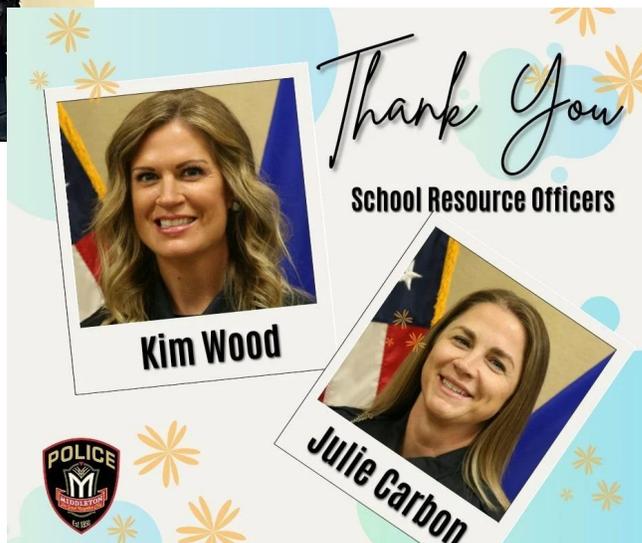
Greetings from Middleton High School's School Resource Officer Kim Wood! I have provided coverage for not only the Middleton High School, but also Clark Street Community School, the Early Learning Center and Cardinal Academy. I have entered my 18th year of public service, all with the Middleton Police Department.

Entering into my 3rd year as the SRO for the 2024-2025 school year, I have continued building on the relationships I have with our wonderful students and staff whether it is over coffee in my office, walking the halls between classes, visiting classrooms or monitoring lunch.

For the 2024 calendar year, there were over 200 calls for service. I also provided assistance to the Kromrey SRO with incidents occurring in the schools she covers. These calls for service ranged from mental health calls, fights, drug investigations, accidents, trespassing and theft, to name a few. A number of these incidents resulted in referrals to our Restorative Justice program, a program the police department has available to provide a positive learning experience to our youth that would have otherwise resulted in citations or criminal charges.

At the end of 2024, a new SRO was announced to take my place as I was selected as the department's newest full time Detective! SRO Kevin Thompson shadowed me through the middle of January 2025 before taking over this role full time.

I have enjoyed my time with the Middleton Cross Plains School District and wish SRO Thompson the best as he begins this exciting new role!



The Middleton Police Department has a dedicated state-of-the-art Communications Center staffed 24-hours a day, every day of the year by five full-time dispatchers, three part-time dispatchers and a Communications Center Supervisor. In addition to managing radio communications amongst all of the city's police officers and other first responders, the Communications Center processes thousands of calls each year, including non-emergency calls and text messages to 608-824-7300, as well as landline and mobile calls and texts to 911.

While 911 calls to our center increased almost 14% in 2024, our annual 911 call answer time statistics continue to exceed national standards. In 2024, our dispatch staff answered 98.0% of 911 calls within 15 seconds, and 98.8% of 911 calls within 20 seconds. This is well above the national standard of 90% within 15 seconds, and 95% within 20 seconds.



Our dispatchers received over 200 hours of specialized training, including topics like Crisis Intervention, Active Shooter Incident Management, Tactical Dispatching, Critical Thinking, Peer Support and more. Our dispatchers also partnered with our officers and other first responders from other local agencies for active shooter exercises, so dispatchers and other first

responders each have a better understanding of what happens on both sides of the radio.

Steve Elliott started as our newest dispatcher in July. Steve is a graduate of the University of Akron with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. His previous work history includes time as a volunteer firefighter, a Tobacco Enforcement Specialist for the US Food and Drug Administration, and an Operations Specialist Second Class for the U.S. Navy.



One of our part-time dispatchers, Tom Adler, retired at the end of 2024 after serving 40 years! Tom started as a part-time dispatcher here in 1985, the same year he began serving on the City of Madison Fire Department. He retired from the fire department as a Lieutenant in 2012 after serving 27 years, and continued working as a part-time dispatcher for us. He has also served in the vital role of maintaining our radio system & related infrastructure over the years, and will continue for the foreseeable future.

After losing 40 years of service with Tom Adler retiring, we were fortunate enough to be able to hire Judy Wallander as a part-time dispatcher. Judy brings 45 years of dispatching experience with her, most recently at Fitchburg PD. She is a retired dispatch supervisor from Rock County, and prior to that she dispatched for Manitowoc County.



Our dispatchers also continued to participate in community outreach events, such as National Night Out and career fairs to help community members understand the important role that our dispatchers play on the public safety team, and allow them an opportunity to meet the heroes behind the headsets who are often heard but never seen.



Communications Center Phone Stats – 2024	
Total Calls Processed	26,104
Non-emergency	19,252
911 Landline & Wireless *	3,126
Non-Emergency Text Messages	3,567
Text-to-911	159
Busiest Day of the Week	Tuesday
Busiest Hours of the Day	12:00pm - 4:00pm

**The National Emergency Number Association 911 Call Processing Standard states that 90% of 911 calls shall be answered within 15 seconds, and 95% of 911 calls shall be answered within 20 seconds. In 2024, our staff answered 98.0% of 911 calls within 15 seconds, and 98.8% of 911 calls within 20 seconds.*

Traffic safety and traffic enforcement continues to be one of our main concerns at the Middleton Police Department. We handled 512 traffic complaints in 2024 that were called in by other drivers on the road. Most of these complaints were for aggressive driving behavior, vehicles on the side of the road, or suspected impaired drivers.

Our community members are great partners in notifying us of traffic concerns in our city. Traffic complaints that are frequently reported are speed violations and stop sign violations. Middleton officers spent extra time on these traffic complaint areas and enforced violations they observed. In 2024, our officers issued 285 citations for speeds 20mph+ over the speed limit, including 20 citations for 30mph+ over, and one citation for 40mph+ over. Middleton officers also issued 175 citations for Failure to Stop at a Stop Sign violations. Some of the traffic complaints we received are long-term projects and have continued to have enforcement action taken throughout the year and will carry over into 2025.

Our department has a motorcycle officer who focuses on traffic enforcement as well as community engagement. Officer Jesse Sellek attended special events such as the EAA Pancake Breakfast, National Night Out, Cars Curing Kids, 4th of July neighborhood parades, assisted in escorting the President of the United States, and led the Good Neighbor Festival parade.

Our department participated in an Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Enforcement grant and a Speed Enforcement grant in 2024. Our department teamed up with the University of Wisconsin–Madison and Cross Plains Police Departments to create a task force for these grants. Our OWI grant provided our departments with an additional \$21,956 in funds to put more police officers on the road to enforce OWI laws. Our Speed grant provided our departments with an additional \$44,835 in funds to focus on speed enforcement. The grants were worked from December 2023 – September 2024.

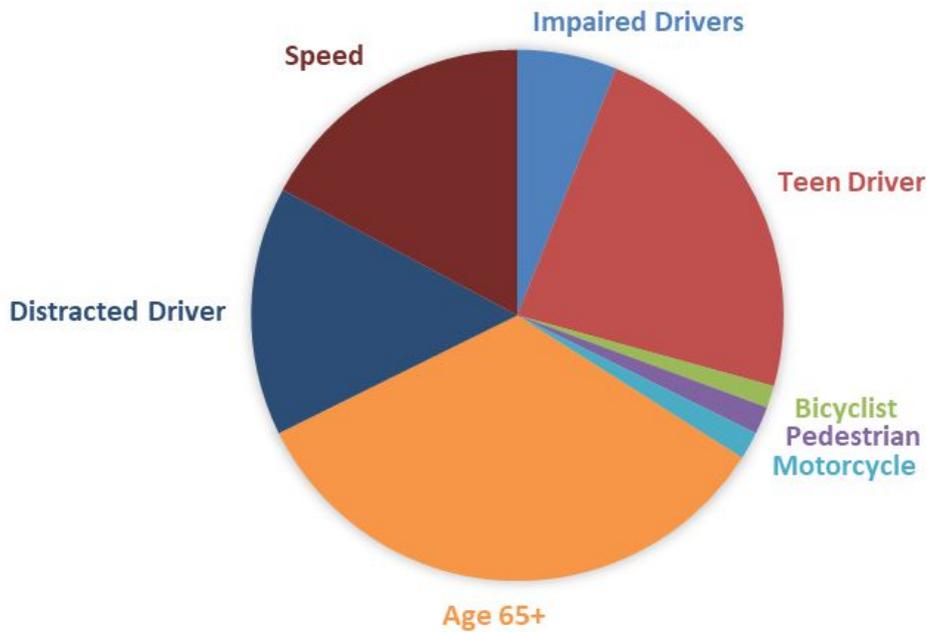
Our department also participated in the Special Enforcement Periods of “Drive Sober–Winter,” “Click it or Ticket,” and “Drive Sober–Labor Day” enforcements. These enforcements focus on seatbelt and OWI violations and are conducted during officers’ regularly scheduled shifts.

There were 433 reportable crashes with 83 injuries in 2024, compared to 442 crashes with 90 injuries in 2023. This is 2% decrease in crashes, with a 7.8% decrease in injuries. The crashes included the following:

- 18 crashes involving impaired drivers (alcohol and/or drugs)
- 5 crashes involving pedestrians
- 4 crashes involving bicyclists
- 5 crashes involving motorcycles
- 69 crashes involving teen drivers
- 100 crashes involving drivers aged 65+
- 45 crashes involving distracted drivers
- 51 crashes involving speed

All types of crashes decreased in number in 2024 except the number of crashes involving speed, which increased by 4% this year.

2024 CRASHES



In total, officers conducted 3,314 traffic stops, issuing 2,027 traffic citations and 2,040 warnings in 2024. This included 68 Operating While Intoxicated arrests, three of which were for Operating with a Detectable Amount of Restricted Controlled Substances, 11 violations that were 3rd offense or higher, and 18 citations for Consuming or Transporting Open Intoxicants in a Motor Vehicle.

Remember to be mindful of other drivers on the road, slow down, keep the phone down, and drive safely!





In 2024, the Middleton Community Police Partnership (MiCoPP) remained committed to fostering strong, meaningful connections between law enforcement and the community we serve. Guided by our mission to alleviate governmental burden through community partnerships and volunteer-driven programming, the department continued its proactive approach to outreach and crime prevention in an effort to address community deterioration.

The year began with Crime Stoppers Night at Capitol Ice Arena in January, setting the tone for a busy and impactful calendar of events. From February's Police Be Mine to December's Candy Cane Hunt, officers participated in more than 30 community events throughout the year. Each event provided a valuable opportunity to build trust and engage with residents of all ages.

In the spring, the department hosted the Citizens' Academy, giving participants an in-depth look at the day-to-day responsibilities of law enforcement. This was followed by the Youth Academy in July, which focused on educating and inspiring young individuals around public safety, leadership, and service. Officers also participated in a variety of youth-focused activities, including CJ Club with SRO Wood, Keva Sports Camp, and school visits to Middleton High School during both the spring and fall semesters.

One of our most impactful annual events, National Night Out, continued to thrive in 2024. The gathering brought together hundreds of community members and reflected our department's ongoing commitment to partnership and transparency.



Throughout the year, officers participated in a wide range of community engagement efforts such as Cops and Bobbers, Huntin' for Pumpkins, Spooky Stroll, and Stuff the Squad. Many of these events were conducted in collaboration with local organizations and the Middleton Parks and Recreation Department. These opportunities helped break down barriers and build stronger relationships between officers and residents.



Educational outreach remained a priority. Officers delivered presentations at schools, senior centers, and community groups on topics such as fraud and scam prevention, crime prevention strategies, personal safety, police technology, and local crime trends. The department also produced several informational videos, including a recruitment spotlight, a Community Policing feature, a School Bus Safety public service announcement, and a Citizens' Academy overview.

Recruitment continued to be a focus area. Officers attended multiple career fairs at UW-Platteville, MATC, and Blackhawk College, engaging with students interested in careers in law enforcement. The department also provided six police department tours to groups such as Cub Scouts and individual families.

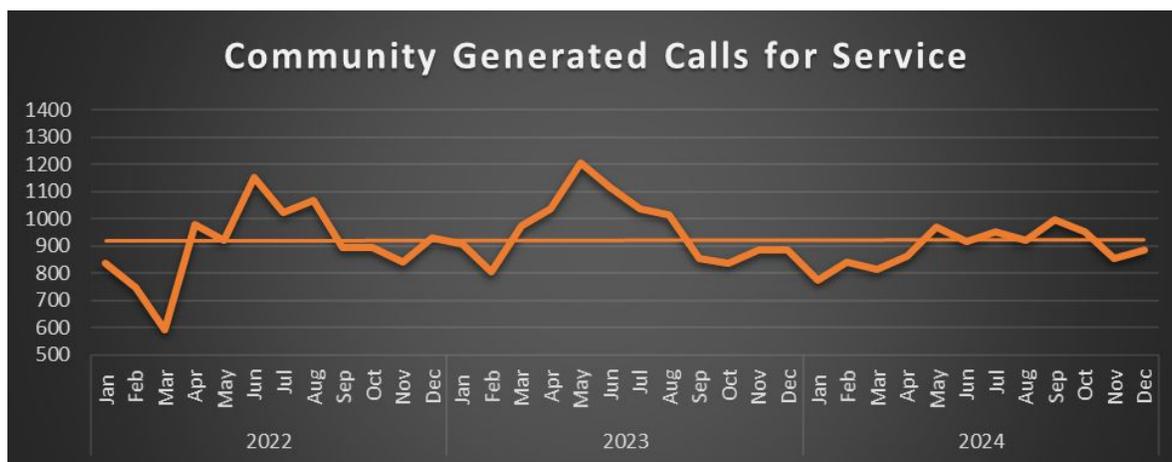
In addition, the department completed 51 child car seat checks, including four special event stations hosted at the Middleton Fire Department, Maple Bluff Police Department, Waunakee Police Department, and a local Toyota dealership. These checks reflect our ongoing investment in child safety and family outreach.

As we look back on 2024, it is clear that Middleton's Community Policing Program continues to serve as a vital bridge between law enforcement and the community. We remain dedicated to accessibility, innovation, and authentic engagement as we move into the future.



In 2024, the Middleton Police Department responded to 18,521 calls for service. At first glance, our overall calls for service have remained largely consistent from 2023 to 2024. Given the growth in the city over the past year, a deeper look into what is happening revealed some noteworthy trends. Notably, the number of calls for service does not accurately reflect staff time and department resources utilized to respond to the needs of our community.

The largest reason calls for service did not increase in 2024 was a decline of 582 calls relating to 911 misdial or disconnect call types. It is encouraging to see those numbers declining as misdials consume valuable resources of emergency phone lines and staff time. However, other call for service types such as disturbances, theft, assist person, check property, sexual assault, juvenile complaints, and several others all increased in 2024. The call types that increased are those that require an officer response and significantly more staff time and resources.

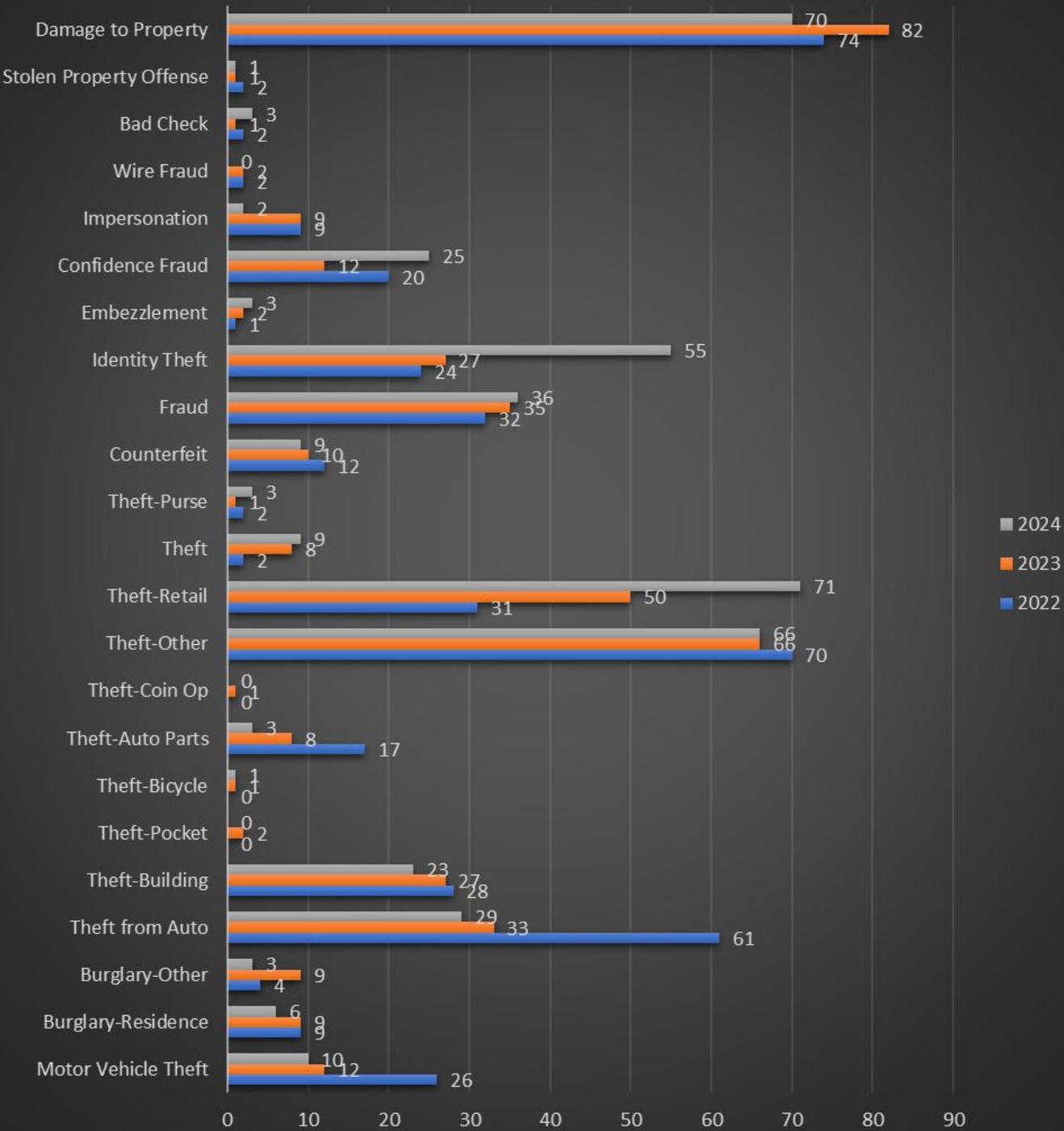


Property crime increased in 2024 back to the same level we saw in 2022. Motor vehicle thefts continued to decline and are down significantly from 2022. The most notable increases in property crime were related to identify theft and retail theft. The Middleton Police Department has focused efforts on prevention of these crimes including providing numerous educational presentations at the Senior Center and area senior living facilities. Seniors are often targeted victims of these crimes which are difficult to solve due to bad actors often being outside the United States.

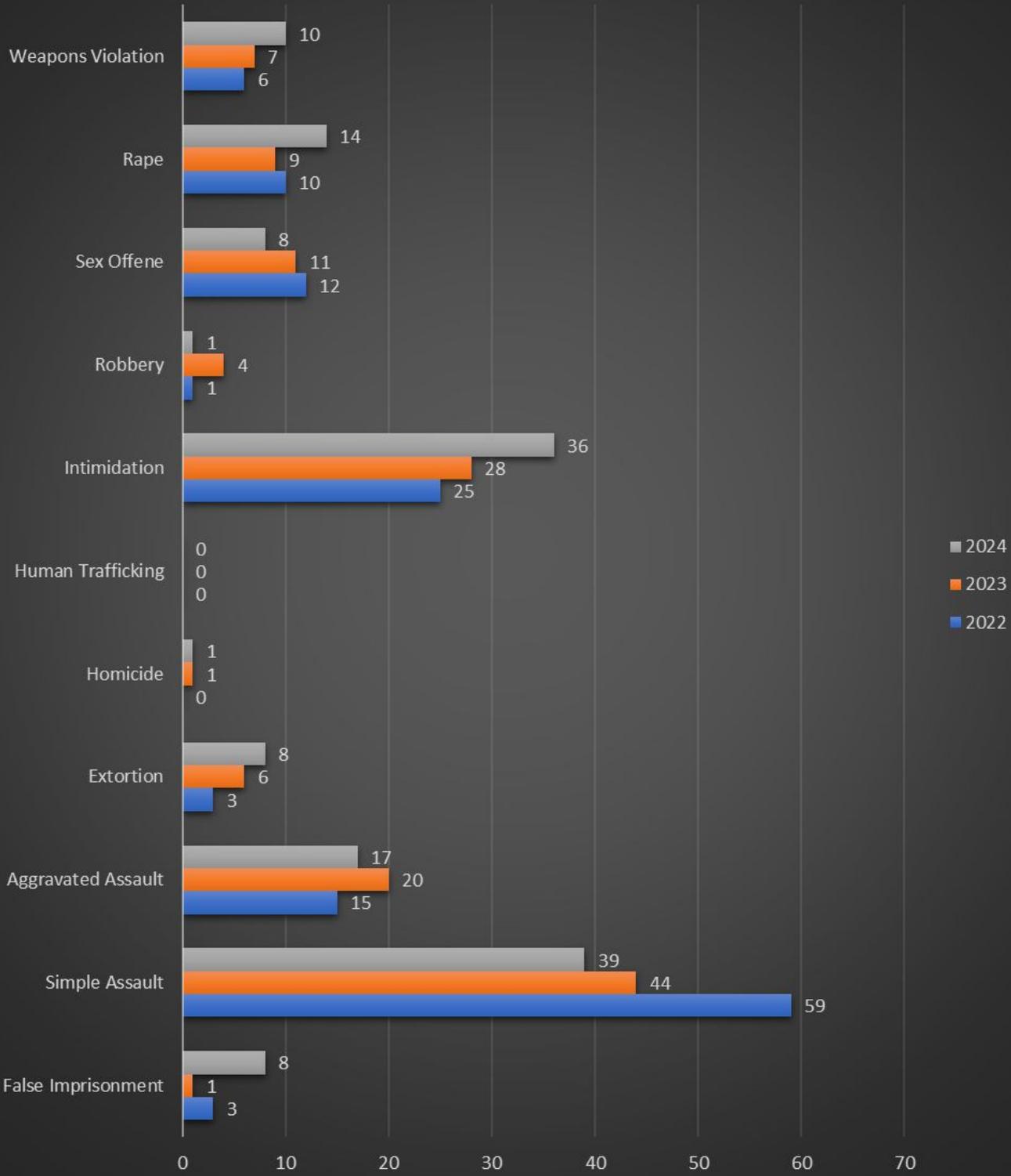
Retail theft cases can also be complex to solve given retailers often have policies in place either not to report the issues or report them well after the incident occurs. The Middleton Police Department does respond and investigate these crimes when reported, but it requires significantly more investigative time if there is no opportunity to catch the suspect in the act.

This past year there was a slight increase in reportable violent crimes, however there are no significant trends. The increases largely related to intimidation of a victim or false imprisonment charges. We most often see these relating to domestic violence cases, which overall were down in 2024. Some potential causes for the increase in those specific charges are officers are better trained to understand and articulate the elements of those offenses.

Property Crime



Violent Crime



Of the 18,521 calls for service in 2024, Middleton Police Officers utilized force in 25 of those incidents. This means that force was applied in 0.13% of all incidents that officers responded to throughout the year. This is fewer than each of the past 5 years:

- 2024 (25 incidents, 0.13% of all incidents)
- 2023 (31 incidents, 0.17% of all incidents)
- 2022 (51 incidents, 0.27% of all incidents)
- 2021 (47 incidents, 0.26% of all incidents)
- 2020 (65 incidents, 0.40% of all incidents)

Before looking at the numbers on the next page, some explanation is necessary to fully understand how they were calculated. Each incident involving force may or may not involve multiple officers and/or multiple subjects. Understandably, the more significant an incident, the more likely there is to be multiple officers involved. Furthermore, each incident frequently involves multiple levels of force from each officer as they sometimes progress through the intervention options. Each separate application of force from each officer is documented in the numbers on the next page, so the number of applications of force will naturally be higher than the number of incidents involving force.

In 2024, there was a total of 69 applications of force against 33 individuals. Of note, as of 2023 we are no longer reporting incidents where sick and injured animals were dispatched. The reason for that is because the general public is usually only interested in use of force against people and because the statistics can be noticeably impacted by the uncontrollable number of animals that need to be dispatched in any given year. Given the change in the way we are reporting use of force, this also means that care should be taken when comparing current numbers to prior years.

The Middleton Police Department takes use of force seriously and has a multi-step review process for each incident that involves force at the level of a compliance hold or higher. The purpose of this review process is to ensure all uses of force are within policy, that the policy is appropriate, and that our training and equipment are adequate.

In addition to the immediate review of all uses of force, the Middleton Police Department also does quarterly reviews. This data is shared with the Lieutenants, the Captains, and the Chief. At the end of the year there is also an annual review. All of these reports are also discussed at the quarterly Lieutenant meetings which allows for better tracking of employees' uses of force to determine whether there are any trends.

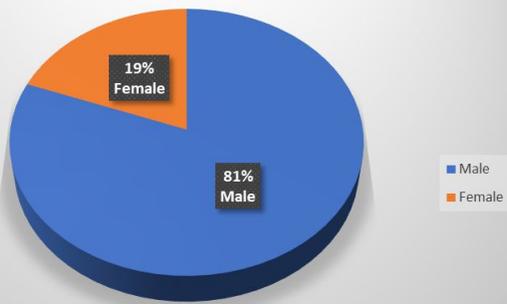
All officers are required to fill out Critical Incident reports that are then reviewed by their immediate supervisor. Those incidents are then referred to the Captain for a secondary review and, if needed, a Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB) is convened. This is a board consisting of 3-5 employees who review an incident as required by policy or at the request of a supervisor. The CIRB met to review two use of force incidents in 2024. The CIRB found both of the incidents to be within policy.

On the following pages, you will find a breakdown of the uses of force for the year by quarters. You will also find several graphs showing the demographics of the subjects which force was applied to, as well as a historical chart showing the uses of force broken down by each officer.

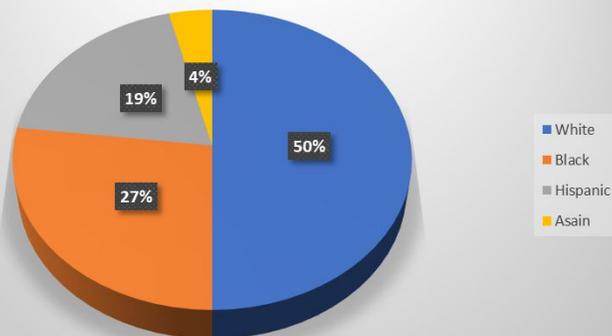
Use of Force Review

	2023 Q1	2024 Q2	2024 Q3	2024 Q4	2024 Total
Number of Applications of Force	28	9	24	8	69
Calls for Service	4028	4655	4974	4864	18521
Number of Incidents Involving Force	9	5	8	3	25
Percent of Incidents Involving Force	0.22%	0.11%	0.16%	0.06%	0.13%
Taser Pointed at Suspect	1	1	3	2	7
Taser Arc Warning	0	0	0	0	0
Taser Fired at Suspect	1	0	0	0	1
BolaWrap Pointed	0	0	0	0	0
BolaWrap Fired	0	0	0	0	0
Less Lethal Shotgun Pointed at Suspect	1	0	2	0	3
Force - Decentralized	8	5	4	2	19
Force - Escort Hold	8	2	5	1	16
Force - Compliance Hold	3	0	1	0	4
Force - Strikes / Blows	1	0	0	0	1
Firearm Pointed at Suspect	3	1	9	3	16
Firearm Discharged at Suspect	0	0	0	0	0
Canine Deployed - Bite	0	0	0	0	0
Canine Deployed - No Bite	2	0	0	0	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0
	28	9	24	8	69

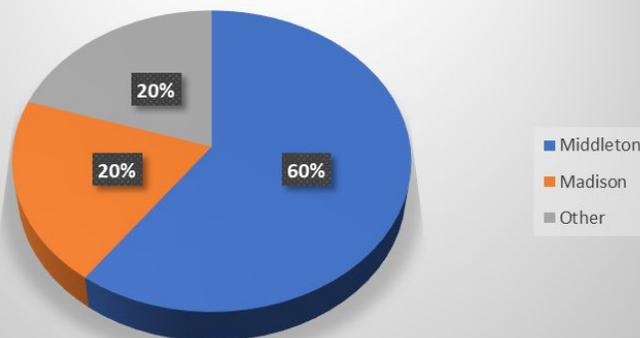
Use Of Force By Gender



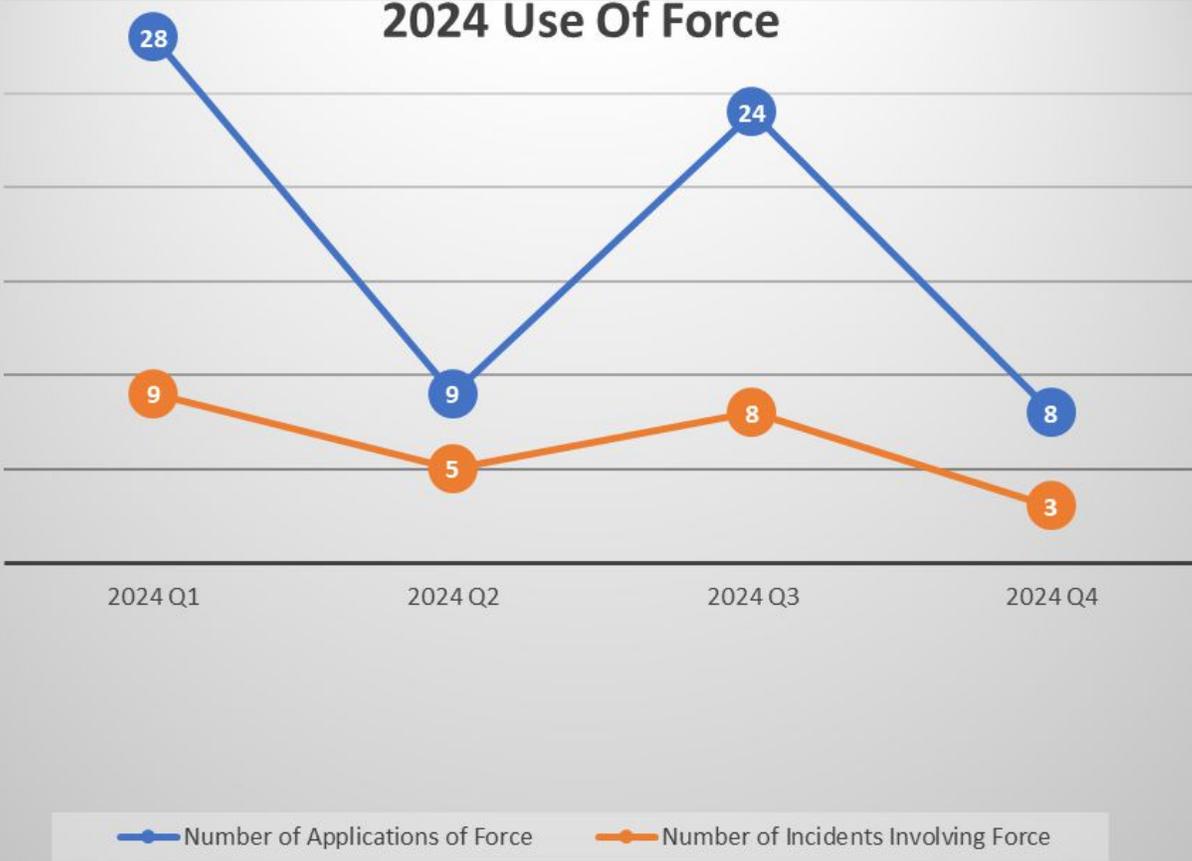
Use of Force By Race



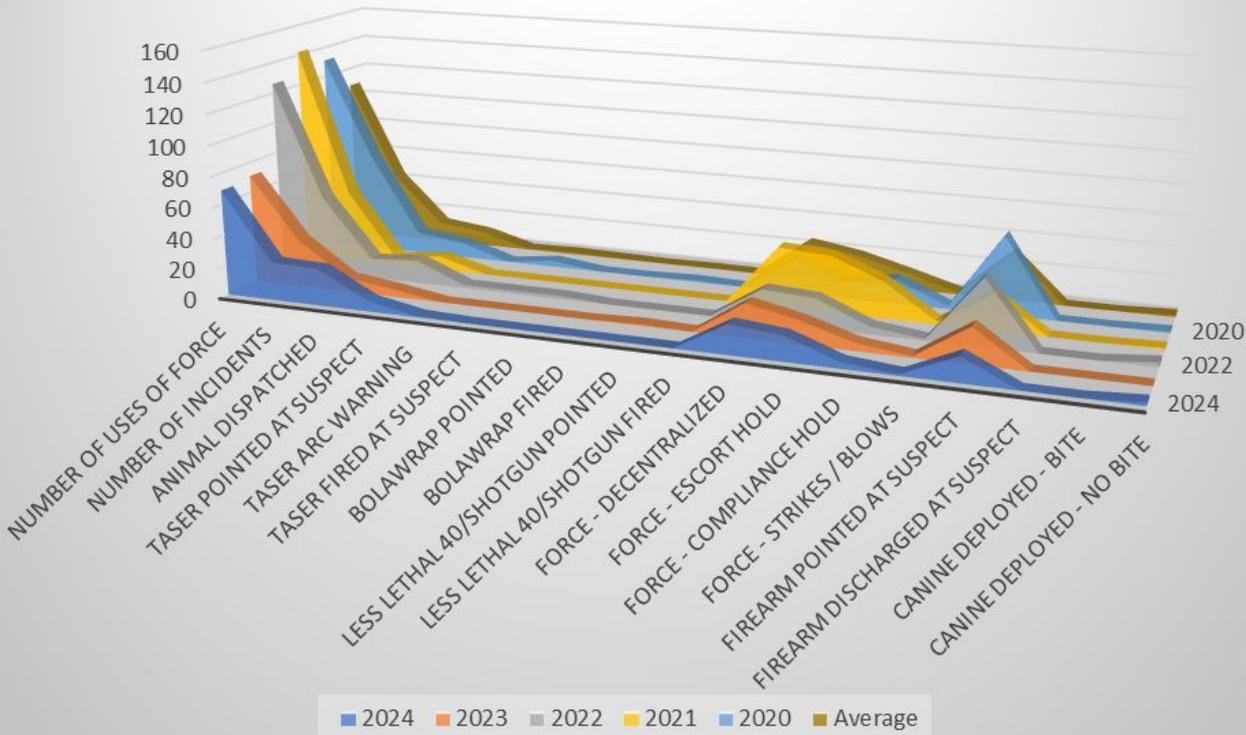
Use Of Force By Address Of Subject



2024 Use Of Force

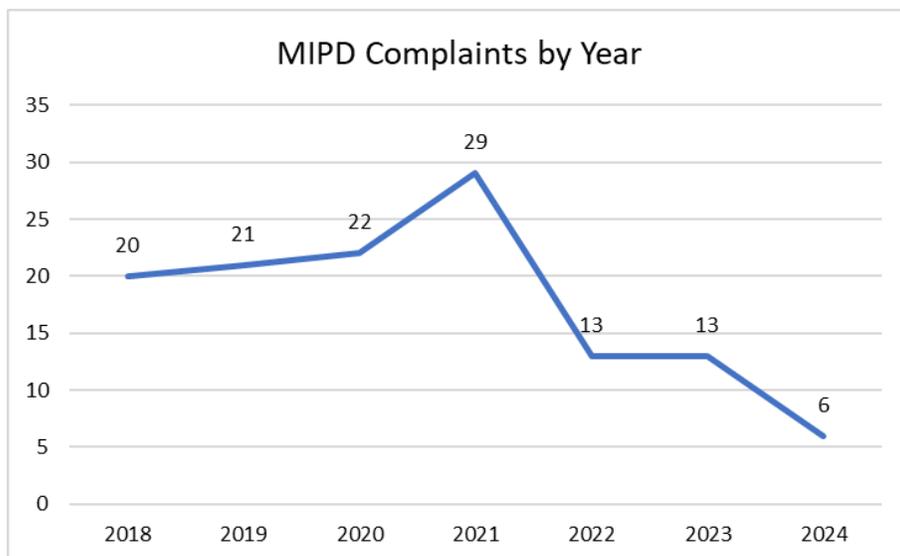


Annual Use Of Force



The Middleton Police Department takes any allegations against our employees seriously and thoroughly investigates all complaint allegations. In 2024, there were 6 total complaints filed against our staff throughout the year. This is the lowest number on record for the Middleton Police Department.

Most employee complaints are assigned to a Lieutenant to investigate or, in the case of a civilian employee, their direct supervisor. More serious allegations, or those made against a Lieutenant, are assigned to a Captain for investigation. Each investigation involves interviews of the complainant and involved employee(s), witnesses, as well as a review of relevant reports, body camera video, and/or squad video. When the investigation is complete, it is forwarded to the Administrative Captain for review and the original complainant is notified of the findings.



When received, complaints are grouped into one of the following categories:

Use of Force – Excessive or inappropriate use of force.

Property – Money, property, evidence or other valued items have been damaged, or taken and not properly accounted for, receipted, or placed in property/evidence.

Conduct – Misconduct, other than those more specifically defined by another category, which tends to bring reproach or discredit upon the department.

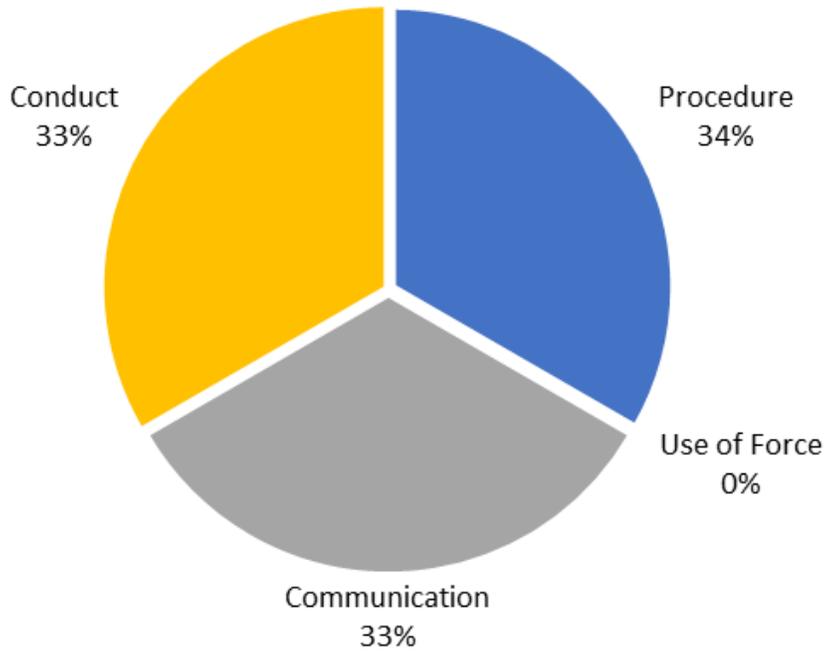
Disparate Treatment – Treatment of an individual that is different from that of another because of race, sex, age, origin, orientation, status, beliefs, appearance, or handicap.

Communication – Attitude, rude conduct, or verbally abusive conduct other than those addressed in the disparate treatment category.

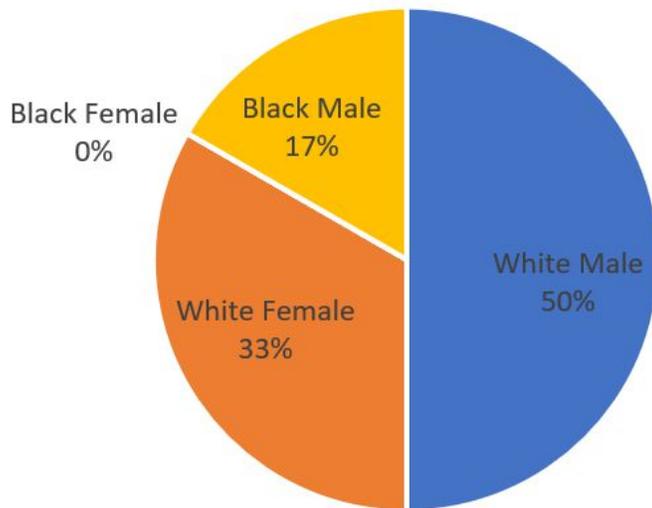
Performance – Work performance which fails to meet or conform to department standards or requirements of an administrative nature such as lateness, misuse of sick time, etc.

Procedure – Conduct which violates policy, procedures, rules, standards of conduct, or order of a superior officer and which are not more specifically addressed in the performance category.

2024 Complaint Types



2024 Complaints by Sex/Race



In 2024, the following types of complaints were investigated. The below data also breaks down the race and gender of the complainants, as well as complaint dispositions.

Complaint dispositions are broken down into the following categories:

Unfounded – The investigation has produced sufficient evidence to prove that the act or acts alleged did not occur. This finding shall also apply when individual personnel named in the complaint were not involved in an act that did occur.

Exonerated – The act alleged did occur, but the employee’s actions were justified, legal and proper.

Undetermined/No Finding – There is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.

Unintentional Error – The act (or omission) did occur, and it is deemed improper, but was the result of an employee’s mistake made in good faith.

Sustained – The investigation disclosed enough evidence to prove the allegation.

Misconduct Not Based on Complaint – Investigation into the complaint reveals other actions that would be a violation of policy, operating procedure, rules, standards of conduct, or law, but these actions were not a part of the original complaint.

Policy Failure – The employee’s actions were in accordance with policy, procedure, or rules, but there is some flaw in the policy that permitted the actions, or there is no applicable policy to address the situation and/or the employee’s actions.

Withdrawn – The complainant has withdrawn the complaint, and no further investigation or action is warranted.

Time Limits – The complaint has been filed more than 90 days after the alleged incident, no law violations are alleged, and the complainant cannot show good cause for the delayed reporting.

