2024

Joplin Police Department

Annual Report

2024 Year End Report

January 1 to December 31

Prepared by Office of Internal Affairs

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The main purpose of this information is to get as much information as possible out to the members of the Department and the public to avoid unnecessary rumors, which have a negative effect on the Department. The annual report will provide a statistical analysis of the lethal, less lethal, and non-lethal force used by the JPD Officer and JPD Detention Officers; and enhance transparency between the Department and its stakeholders within the City of Joplin.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide professional service and protection through leadership and partnership with the community.

VALUE STATMENT

Honor - without compromise
Courage - with compassion
Commitment - to community
Service - with understanding

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Pursuits ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**3

Use of Force Policy and Definitions

Officers are confronted daily with situations requiring the use of force to affect an arrest or ensure public safety. The degree of force used depends on what the officer perceives as reasonable and necessary under the circumstances at the time he or she decides to use force. Except for deadly force, the application of any degree of force is justified only when the officer reasonably believes that it is necessary:

- To prevent the escape from custody, make an arrest or an investigative detention of a person the officer believes has committed a crime.
- To defend him or herself or another from what the officer believes is the use of force while trying to arrest another, prevent the suspect's escape, or otherwise lawfully take the person into custody.
- To disperse persons participating in an unlawful assembly.

Deadly force: Any force applied in any manner by any means that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical injury. (RSMo 563.011)

Non-deadly force: Force employed which is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious physical injury.

Firearms: Any weapon from which a projectile is forcibly ejected by an explosive.

Reasonable belief: When facts or circumstances the officer knows, or should know, are such as to cause an ordinary and prudent person to act or think reasonably in a similar way under similar circumstances.

Serious physical injury: Bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which is likely to cause serious permanent disfigurement or loss, or extended impairment of the function of anybody member or organ.

Objectively Reasonable Force: The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments - in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving - about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation. The question is whether the officers' actions are "objectively reasonable" in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or motivation. Because “the test of reasonableness under the Fourth Amendment is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application," however, its proper application requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each case, including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

Use of Force Overview

In 2024, Joplin Police Department employed some level of force 101 times to effect an arrest or assist with a prisoner/medical patient. There were 297 officer involvements, meaning that in some arrests more than one officer was involved. During 2023, Joplin Police Department employed some level of force 103 times to effect an arrest or assist with a prisoner/medical patient.

The analysis provided is based upon averages. The actual use of force by individual officers can be influenced by several factors such as assignment, patrol area, shift, number of hours worked and other variables.

Joplin Police Officers arrested 4,642 people on a total of 10,779 criminal charges during 2024.
Joplin Police Officers arrested 5,261 people on a total of 12,321 criminal charges during 2023.

- When at full strength the Joplin Police Department has 115 officers.

Use of force occurred an average of once in every 58.5 arrests during 2024.
Use of force occurred an average of once in every 50.5 arrests during 2023.

- Use of Force Incidents broken down by race:

  White- 68
  Black- 13
  Hispanic- 1
  Asian- 0
  Native American- 1
  Other- 2
  Unknown- 0

  *Comments: Some use of force incidents involved multiple subjects

Profile of Use-of-force Incidents received between January 1st, 2024, and December 31st, 2024

Total number of use-of-force incidents:	**79**
Total number of officers involved:	**297**

2024 Type of Force Tally

The following statistics are a comprehensive breakdown of individual use of force events. As such, they are representative of the dynamic and fluid nature of such events wherein a single use of force event is comprised of phases of escalation and de-escalation. Several levels of force and methods of force are utilized to bring about a successful resolution to the event. The following numbers reflect the multiple efforts in use of force events and do not represent a change in the total use of force events listed above.

	Type of Force	Total #		Type of Force	Total
1	Active Pointing of Weapon	95	22	Knife	0
2	Alternative Impact Weapon	2	23	Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint	0
3	Arm bar	0	24	Leg Strike(s)	1
4	ASP	0	25	OC Spray	4
5	Canine	1	26	Open-Hand Strike	1
6	Clamp	0	27	Pepper ball Gun	0
7	Come Along	1	28	Physical Restraint	6
8	Control Hold	7	29	Pressure Point(s)	0
9	CS Gas	0	30	Push	4
10	Elbow Strike(s)	2	31	Rifle	0
11	Empty Hand Control	12	32	Shotgun	0
12	Escort	0	33	Strike(s)	4
13	Fist	11	34	Strikes in Furtherance	1
14	Foot	2	35	Take to Ground	25
15	Handgun	1	36	Taser	55
16	Headlock	0	37	Taser Arc Display	0
17	Hobble Restraints	1	38	Thrust Kick	0
18	Impact Munitions	3	39	Tinsley	0
19	Joint Lock	0	40	Verbal Direction	51
20	Kicks	2	41	Wrist Lock	2
21	Knee Strike(s)	3			

Taser Usage

Tasers were deployed 55 times in 2024.
Tasers were deployed 65 times in 2023.

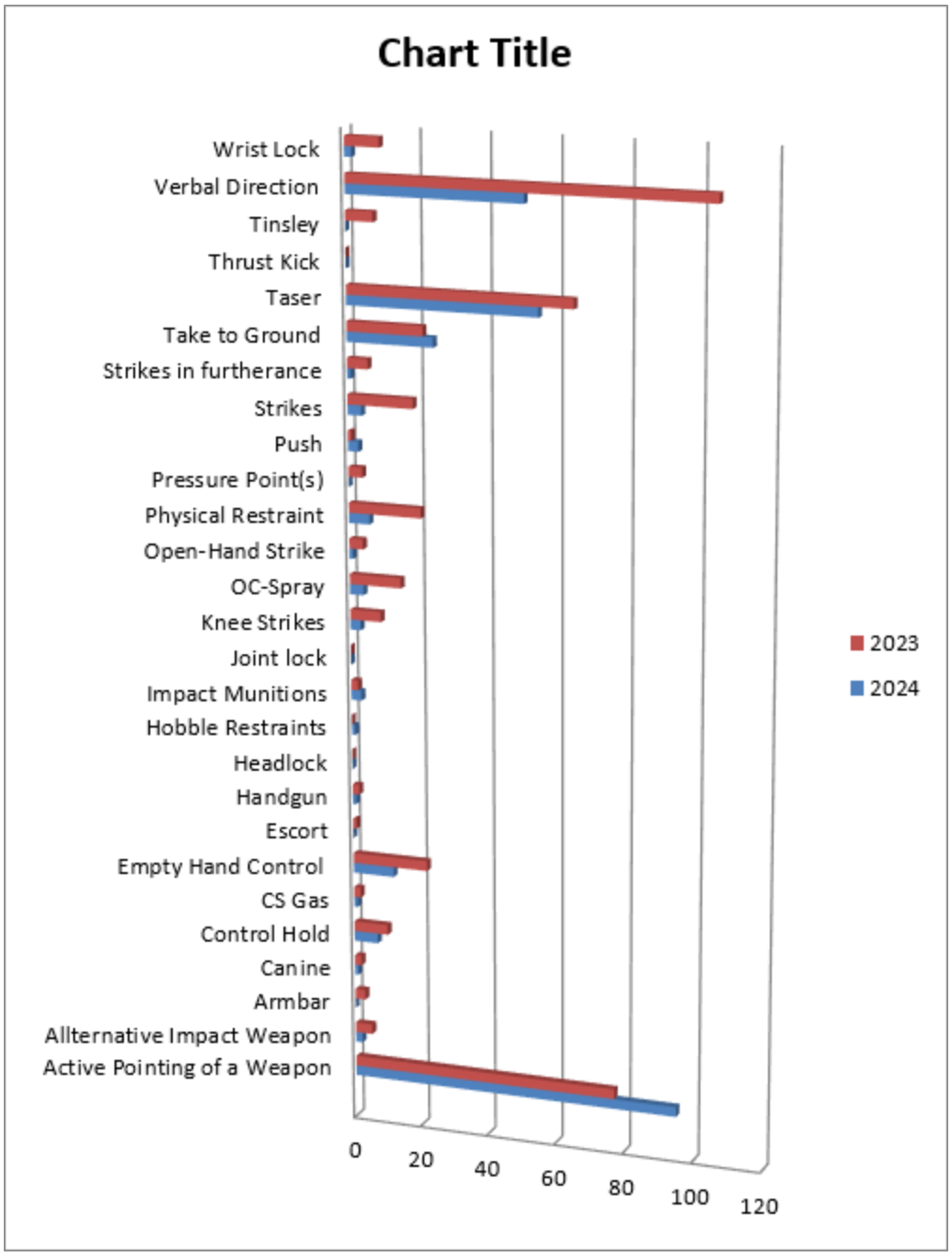
Tasers were deployed an average of once in every 84 arrests in 2024.
Tasers were deployed an average of once in every 81 arrests in 2023.

The average number of Taser deployments was 4.5 times per month in 2024.

Yearly Type of Force Comparison

It should be noted that there were 101 use of force events in 2024. There were 103 Use of Force events in 2023. The chart below will show a higher number. One should take into consideration that many force events have more than one type of force used. For example, if verbal direction is given, and the party still fails to comply with the officer, that officer will move to a different type of force.

See following page for Graph.


Chart Title
Wrist Lock
Verbal Direction
Tinsley
Thrust Kick
Taser
Take to Ground
Strikes in furtherance
Strikes
Push
Pressure Point(s)
Physical Restraint
Open-Hand Strike
OC-Spray
Knee Strikes
Joint lock
Impact Munitions
Hobble Restraints
Headlock
Handgun
Escort
Empty Hand Control
CS Gas
Control Hold
Canine
Armbar
Allternative Impact Weapon
Active Pointing of a Weapon
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
2023
2024

Citizen Resistance Tally

Types of Resistance

Psychological Intimidation – Verbal and Non-Verbal cues indicative of a subject's mental or physical preparedness to resist and/or assault the officer or others.

Non-Compliance - Noncompliance or verbal responses or threats of non-compliance to officer's directions.

Passive Resistance - Dead weight; no active participation, not influencing, not exerting any force (internal or otherwise)

Active Resistance - Clinging to objects to prevent the officer from gaining control, exerting influence by physical effort or action. (i.e. using muscle tension to prevent movement.)

Escape Resistance - Fleeing, pushing, or pulling away from the officer to avoid control, however, not attempting to harm the officer.

Active Aggression - Physical actions of assault.

Deadly Force Threat – Assaults with the perceived intent and apparent ability to cause death or great bodily harm.

Reason	Count	Percent of total
Active Aggression	41	13.8%
Active Resistance	70	23.5%
Deadly Force Assault on Citizen	3	1.01%
Deadly Force Assault on Officer	2	0.67%
Escape Resistance	28	9.4%
Felony Car Stop	5	1.7%
Handgun	3	1.01%
Knife	9	3.03%
Non-Compliance	72	24.2%
None	7	2.4%
Passive Resistance	19	6.4%
Psychological Intimidation	17	5.7%
Self-Harm	7	2.4%
Showed Great Strength	13	4.4%
Spit	1	0.3%

Total	**297**

Arrests and Charges

Citizen arrested in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	Percent of total
No	38	36.5%
Yes	66	63.5%
Total	**104**	

Tally of charges against involved citizens:

Charge	Count	Percent of total
96-hour Mental Commit	8	3.9%
Assault	7	3.4%
Assault on Officer	13	6.3%
Compliance with request for information by Ofc.	8	3.9%
Domestic Assault	10	4.9%
DWI/DUI	5	2.4%
Felony Resisting Arrest	22	10.7%
Felony Warrant	11	5.4%
Misdemeanor Warrant	6	2.9%
Not Arrested/Charged	20	9.8%
Obstructing service of Officer/Resisting	28	13.7%
Other Felony PC	14	6.8%
Other Misdemeanor PC	19	9.3%
Peace Disturbance	0	0.0%
Possession of Controlled Substance	6	2.9%
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	5	2.4%
Possession of Marijuana	0	0.0%
Resisting Arrest	18	8.8%
Safe Keep	1	0.5%
Traffic Violations	4	1.9%
Violation of Ex-Parte/Full Order of Protection	1	0.5%
Total	**205**	

Injuries

Injury- The Missouri Criminal Code defines injury in Chapter 565.070 as *physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition*. Our current category for injuries only includes injured or not injured. For reporting purposes, injuries include visible injuries such as contusions and bruises, lacerations, punctures, scratches, and abrasions. It will also include any complaint of physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition which may not be clearly visible, however an Officer reasonably believes is caused from the type of force that was used on the Officer or Subject. Officers and subjects may have more than one visible injury (i.e., a contusion and an abrasion) however these are only counted as one "injury" in relation to the use of force event. This data will not include pre-existing injuries in relation to the use of force event.

Taken to Hospital- Subject or Officer was taken to hospital for treatment because of the use of force event. This may occur for several reasons and may sometimes be required by Departmental Policy due to the type of force that was used.

Citizen was injured in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	**Percent of total**
No	50	47.6%
Yes	53	52.4%
Total	**103**	

Citizen taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	**Percent of total**
No	83	80.6%
Yes	20	19.4%
Total	**103**	

Officer injured in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	**Percent of total**
No	92	89%
Yes	11	11%
Total	**103**	

Officer taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	**Percent of total**
No	103	100%
Yes	0	0%
Total	**103**	

Reason for Use of Force and Type of Service Rendered

Reason for use-of-force:

Reason	Count	Percent of total
Jail cell extraction	3	2.9%
Jail failure to comply	18	17.3%
Jail inmate movement	1	.9%
Jail to enforce jail rule	1	.9%
Felony car stop	4	3.8%
To assist another agency	1	.9%
To defend another officer	3	2.9%
To defend another person	3	2.9%
To defend self	7	6.7%
To disperse an unlawful assembly	0	0%
To effect arrest	57	55%
Investigative detention	3	2.9%
To prevent a violent felony	0	0%
To prevent a violent misdemeanor	1	.9%
To restrain for subject's safety	1	.9%
Transport Prisoner	1	.9%
Total	**104**	

Type of service being rendered at time of use-of-force:

Service type	Count	Percent of total
(Jail) detention	22	21%
Crash investigation	0	0%
Attending court	0	0%
Bar check	0	0%
Call for service	25	24%
Criminal investigation	4	3.8%
Disturbance	16	15.4%
Felony car stop	6	5.7%
Foot pursuit	8	7.7%
Medical assistance call	0	0%
Mental	3	2.9%
Off duty	0	0%
Pedestrian check	8	7.7%
Prisoner handling	0	2%
Prisoner transport	0	0%
Suspicious activity	1	.9%
Traffic Stop	4	3.8%
Vehicle Pursuit	3	2.9%

Warrant Service	4	3.8%
Total	**104**	

Detention Officer Use of Force

During the end of 2012, the Joplin Police Department began to track Police Officer use of force stats separate from Detention Officer use of force stats. This was to give the most practical data for officers working in a street environment vs. inside a jail. Detention Officer stats no longer reflect such data such as Officer use of force vs. arrest, Officer use of force vs. use of force rate, Taser deployments vs. arrest, reason force was used, and type of service being rendered. This data will be documented separately to give the most accurate number.

In 2024, Joplin Detention Officers employed some level of force 22 times to defend themselves, enforce a jail rule, or move a prisoner. In 2023, Detention Officers used force 36 times.

The analysis provided is based upon averages. The actual use of force by individual detention officers can be influenced by several factors such as assignment, shift, number of hours worked and other variables.

The following statistics are a comprehensive breakdown of individual use of force events. As such, they are representative of the dynamic and fluid nature of such events wherein a single use of force event is comprised of phases of escalation and de-escalation. Several levels of force and methods of force are utilized to bring about a successful resolution to the event. The following numbers reflect the multiple efforts in use of force events and do not represent a change in the total use of force events listed above.

Profile of Jail Use-of-force Incidents received Between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024

Total number of use-of-force incidents: **22**
Total number of officers involved: **109**

Type of Force	Total #
Alternative Impact Weapon	0
Arm bar	0
ASP	0
Clamp	0
Come-Along	5
Control Hold	7
Elbow Strike(s)	1
Empty Hand Control	3
Escort	6
Fist	2
Foot	1
Headlock	0
Hobble Restraints	0
Joint Lock	0
Kicks	0
Knee Strike(s)	0
Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint	0
Leg Strike(s)	0
Open-Hand Strike	2
Physical Restraint	26
Pressure Point(s)	1
Push	0
Strike(s)	1
Strikes in Furtherance	0
Take to Ground	6
Taser	8
Taser Arc Display	3
Thrust Kick	0
Tinsley	1
Verbal Direction	31
Wrist Lock	0

Detention Officer Use of Force Continued

Citizen Resistance	Count
Active Aggression	23
Active Resistance	27
Deadly Force Assault on Citizen	0
Deadly Force Assault on Officer	0
Escape Resistance	4
Handgun	0
Knife	0
Non-Compliance	30
None	1
Passive Resistance	8
Psychological Intimidation	4
Self-Harm	1
Showed Great Strength	3
Spit	0
Total	**101**

Injuries (Detention Officers)

Citizen was injured in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count
No	13
Yes	9
Total	**22**

Citizen taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count
No	20
Yes	2
Total	**22**

Officer injured in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count
No	18
Yes	4
Total	**22**

Officer taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count
No	22
Yes	0
Total	**22**

Internal Affairs Report

During 2024, 47 cases were forwarded to the Office of Internal Affairs for investigation. There were 42 cases that involved sworn personnel and 5 cases that involved non-sworn personnel. Comparatively, for 2023, 55 cases were forwarded to the Office of Internal Affairs for investigation. There were 32 cases that involved sworn personnel and 4 cases that involved non-sworn personnel.

The 55 cases involving department personnel are broken down by quarter and graphs are completed to give an indication of how many complaints have been investigated, from where the complaints were generated, how many have been sustained, and what types of disciplinary actions have been handed out for those violations.

In 2024, the Joplin Police Department was authorized for 115 sworn officer and 53 civilian positions in the police department. There are currently 17 jail employees and 20 dispatch employees. This makes 166 authorized employees that fall under the Police Department.

The main purpose of this information is to get as much information as possible out to the members of the Department to avoid unnecessary rumors, which have a negative effect on the Department. The Office of Internal Affairs understands and respects each individual employee's right to confidentiality and will uphold that standard. However, it is important that generic information be shared Department wide to provide expectations and equality for every employee. The Office of Internal Affairs will assure you that each complaint will be investigated in accordance with department policy and as expeditiously as possible.

As illustrated in SOG 2-08, Internal Affairs, I have listed the disposition classifications of internal investigations for your convenience. Disposition classifications are as follows:

1. Unfounded - no truth to allegations.
2. Exonerated - allegations true but result of adherence to proper and appropriate procedures and techniques.
3. Not sustained - unable to verify the truth of the matters under investigation.
4. Sustained - allegations true.
5. Policy Failure - The allegation is true, but employee's action was not inconsistent with policy and there is an indication of a need for policy review and revision.
6. Withdrawn – Complainant withdraws their complaint.
7. Inactivated – There is not enough information to investigate and no way of obtaining more information. The case may have to be inactivated until more information is available.

Complaints Received

The following is a breakdown of all complaints received by Internal Affairs for 2023:

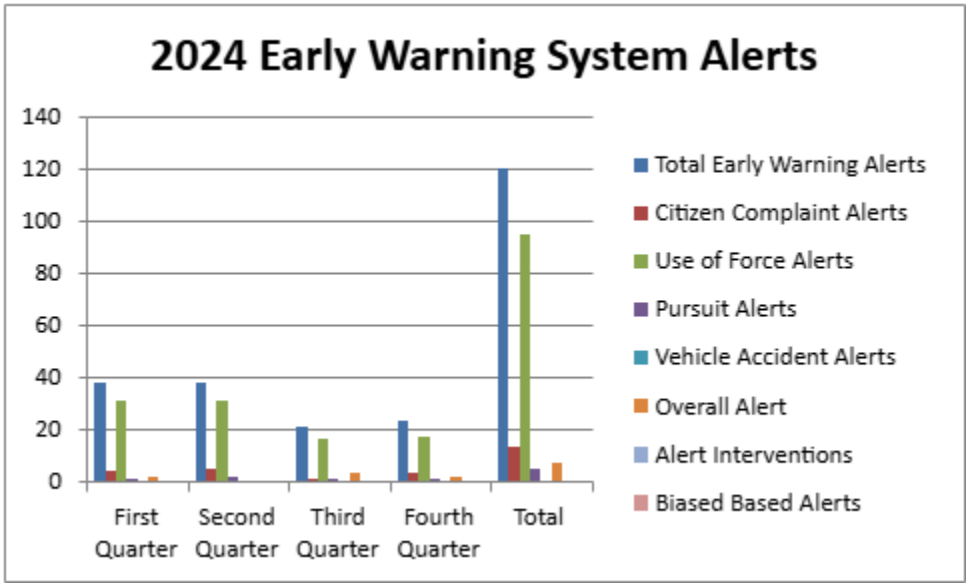
- 47 complaints were received.
- 31 complaints were generated by citizens.
- 16 complaints were generated within the agency.
- 13 complaints were sustained or partially sustained.
- 37 complaints resulted in findings that were other than sustained.
- JPD received an average of 2.6 citizen complaints per month.
- JPD received an average of 1.3 internal complaints per month.

In 2024, the Joplin Police Department responded to 79,571 calls for service. Included in that number is 12,648 vehicle stops. JPD Officers made 4,642 arrests resulting in 10,779 charges.

In 2023, the Joplin Police Department responded to 87,700 calls for service. Included in that number is 16,278 vehicle stops. JPD Officers made 5,261 arrests resulting in 12,321 charges.

Early Warning System

In addition, a comprehensive Personnel Early Warning System is an essential component of a well-managed law enforcement agency. The Joplin Police Department is committed to this concept, and I have implemented threshold limits into our Internal Affairs software (IA Pro) to manage this process. As a result of threshold limits recommended by the officers of the department and set by the Chief of Police, officers' activities will be reviewed (by their immediate supervisor) when threshold limits are met. The threshold limits have been set as follows, to cover a twelve (12) month period; Citizen Complaints = 3, Use of Force = 12, Pursuits = 4, Bias Based Profiling = 1, and Vehicle Crashes = 2. The purpose of the Personnel Early Warning System shall be a means to identify and assess employees' performance in high-risk incidents and intervene where appropriate.



Investigations (Quarterly Breakdown)

FIRST QUARTER INVESTIGATIONS

16 Investigations (4 internal complaints received, 12 citizen complaints received)

Complaint Type	***Results***	***Investigator***
Rudeness	Unfounded	Supervisor
False Allegations	Exonerated	IA
Fail to Perform Duties	Exonerated	IA
Excessive Force	Unfounded	IA
Rudeness	Unfounded	Supervisor
Rights Violation	Unfounded	IA
Racial Profiling	Unfounded	IA
False Statements	Unfounded	IA
Rights Violation	Unfounded	IA
Harassment	Unfounded	IA
Rights Violation	Unfounded	IA
Excessive Force	Exonerated	IA
Law Violation	Unfounded	IA
Administrative Review	Exonerated	IA
Failure to Complete Reports	Sustained	IA
Rules of Conduct	Sustained	IA

SECOND QUARTER INVESTIGATIONS

5 Investigations (2 internal complaints received, 3 citizen complaints received)

Complaint Type	***Results***	***Investigator***
Rules of Conduct	Unfounded	IA
Fail to Perform Duties	Sustained	IA
Rudeness	Sustained	IA
Rules of Conduct	Not Sustained	IA
Insubordination	Not Sustained	IA
Conduct Unbecoming	Not Sustained	IA

THIRD QUARTER INVESTIGATIONS

16 Investigations (6 internal complaints received, 10 citizen complaints received)

Complaint Type	***Results***	***Investigator***
Law Violation	Unfounded	IA
Fail to Perform Duties	Unfounded	IA
Rights Violation	Unfounded	IA
Excessive Force	Unfounded	IA
Rights Violation	Unfounded	IA
Excessive Force	Exonerated	IA
Wrongful Arrest	Exonerated	IA
Rules of Conduct	Unfounded	IA
Rules of Conduct	Not Sustained	IA
Rights Violation	Exonerated	IA
Rules of Conduct	Sustained	IA
Fail to Perform Duties Required	Sustained	IA
Excessive Force	Not Sustained	IA
Rules of Conduct	Not Sustained	IA
Rules of Conduct	Sustained	IA
Rules of Conduct	Unfounded	IA
Rules of Conduct	Sustained	IA

FOURTH QUARTER INVESTIGATIONS

10 Investigations (4 internal complaints received, 6 citizen complaints received.

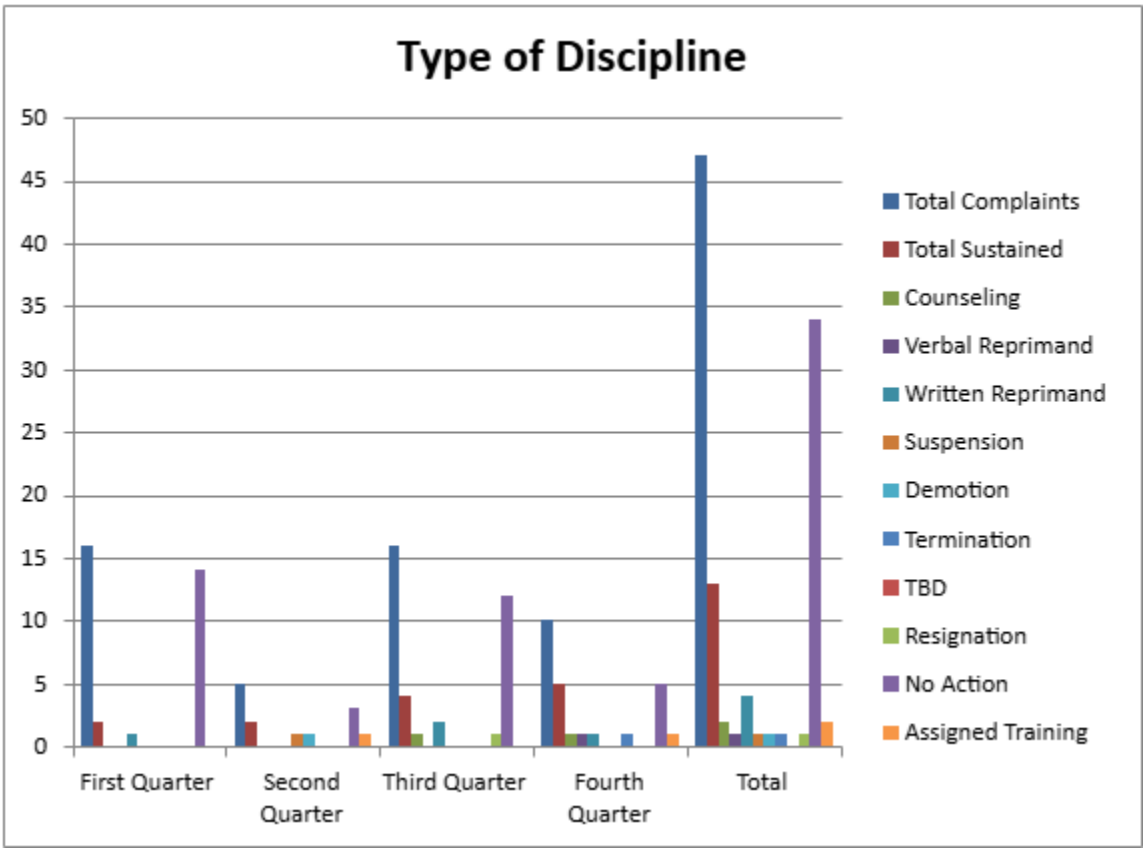
Complaint Type	***Results***	***Investigator***
Rights Violation	Unfounded	Supervisor
Rules of Conduct	Unfounded	Supervisor
Excessive Force	Unfounded	IA
Excessive Force	Unfounded	IA
Rules of Conduct	Unfounded	Supervisor
Failure to Secure Property	Sustained	IA
Workplace Harassment	Sustained	IA
Rules of Conduct	Sustained	IA
False Statements	Sustained	IA
Rules of Conduct	Sustained	IA

The following is a breakdown of Bias-Based complaints received for the year 2024:

- 1 Complaint received based on Race
- 0 Complaints received based on Gender
- 0 Complaints received based on Religion
- 0 Complaints received based on Economic Status
- 0 Complaints received based on Age
- 0 Complaints received based on Ethnicity
- 0 Complaints received based on Sexual Orientation

*****It should be noted that there may be more complaint types and investigations than actual complaints received. This is a result of multiple employees being investigated for one complaint form.**

Types of Discipline



***If you see a disciplinary action that does not seem to fit the violation, keep in mind that it may be due to the severity of the case, or it could be a progressive level of discipline.**

Crashes and Pursuit Policy

In case of crash or damage to any department vehicle, the driver will immediately request the on-duty supervisor be notified. The supervisor will initiate an investigation, and the crash investigator will report the crash using the State-approved crash form. A Crash/Pursuit Review Board will then review all crashes and pursuits involving Police Department employees and vehicles.

The Crash/Pursuit Review Board is the body responsible for reviewing completed officer involved crash and pursuit reports. The Crash/Pursuit Review Board will review each report to ensure compliance with department policy and forward their findings to the Office of Internal Affairs. The Office of Internal Affairs, or his/her designee, will review the Crash/Pursuit Boards findings and initiate an investigation if appropriate. The Crash/Pursuit Review Board is a panel of three officers consisting of the Traffic Sergeant and two designees.

For tracking purposes, crashes in a city vehicle and pursuits are separated from internal and citizen complaints and are categorized in the following manner.

Vehicle Crashes

During 2024 there were 13 officer involved crashes in a city vehicle. Of those crashes, 10 of the officers were determined by the Crash Review Board to be at fault.

First Quarter Crash Discipline

Violation	***Discipline***
Vehicle Operation	**Written**

Second Quarter Crash Discipline

Violation	***Discipline***
Vehicle Operation	**Written**
Vehicle Operation	**Written**

Third Quarter Crash Discipline

Violation	***Discipline***
Vehicle Operation	**Counseling**
Vehicle Operation	**Suspension**
Vehicle Operation	**Counseling**
Vehicle Operation	**Counseling**

Fourth Quarter Crash Discipline

Violation	***Discipline***
Vehicle Operation	**Counseling**
Vehicle Operation	**Counseling**
Vehicle Operation	**Written**

Pursuits

During 2024 there were 14 officer involved pursuits. Of the 14 pursuits involving officers, No officers were disciplined for policy violations related to the pursuits.

First Quarter Pursuit Discipline

Violation	***Discipline***
N/A	

Second Quarter Pursuit Discipline

Violation	***Discipline***
N/A	

Third Quarter Pursuit Discipline

Violation	***Discipline***
N/A	

Fourth Quarter Pursuit Discipline

Violation	***Discipline***
N/A	

***If you see a disciplinary action that does not seem to fit the violation, keep in mind that it may be due to the severity of the case or it could be a progressive level of discipline.**