



AGENDA

POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

Members

- Commissioner Behrendt
- Commissioner Kirschling
- Commissioner Mrozek
- Commissioner Pingel
- Commissioner Zenner
- Alderperson Kneebone

Date and Time: July 10, 2025
1:00 PM

Location: Community Room (Room 122)
Stevens Point Police Department
933 Michigan Avenue
Stevens Point WI 54481

Discussion and Possible Action on the Following:

1. Roll Call.
2. President's Report
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Confirmation of Bills
5. Recognition of Fire Chief Jb Moody's article in the Point/Plover Metro Wire, dated June 24, 2025.
6. Discussion, with possible action, to approve Officer Lucas Hughes to permanent status, effective August 5th, upon successful completion of his 1.5 year probational period.
7. Discussion, with possible action, to approve a conditional offer of employment from the Stevens Point Police Department to Daniel King and Kayla Chaffin upon successful completion of their psychological and medical exams.
8. Discussion, with possible action, to accept a donation from Giving Back, Inc. (a non-profit organization), to assist with the purchase of epi pens for police officers and squad cars.
9. Police Chief Report (including the 2024 SPPD Annual Report and recognition of Lt. Rob Roser's and Sgt. Ross Wierzba's successfully completed probation).
10. Presentation by Comptroller/Treasurer Corey Ladick regarding the idea of a joint Fire Department/District with Park Ridge.
11. Enter into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e) (deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session) and Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e) (deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business,

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person who has special needs while attending these meetings or needs agenda materials for these meetings should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure that a reasonable accommodation can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at (715) 346-1569 or by mail at 1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Maps further defining the above area(s) may be obtained from the City of Stevens Point Department of Community Development, 1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or by calling (715) 346-1567, during normal business hours.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a quorum of the Common Council may be in attendance at this meeting.

whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session) and Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations) for the following:

A. Discussion on refunding costs of preliminary employment screening to a former FD employee.

B. Discussion of possible joint development partnership and sharing of building space for a new emergency services training facility.

12. Enter into open session to take action on closed session Item A (Discussion on refunding costs of preliminary employment screening to a former FD employee) and Item B (Discussion of possible joint development partnership and sharing of building space for a new emergency services training facility).
13. Fire Chief Report/EMS Report/EM Report
14. Adjournment.

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These Minutes are unofficial and subject to modification upon review by the Commission at their next meeting.

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF JUNE 5, 2025, at 1:00 PM**

- 1. Roll Call:** Commissioners Behrendt, Kirschling, Mrozek, Zenner

Also Present: Police Chief Kussow, Fire Chief Moody, Ast. Chief Williams, Ast. Chief Gemza, Ast. Chief Zvara, Lt. Mueller, MPO/PM Thomson, FF/PM Kratzke, Alderperson Kneebone, RB Supervisor Tork

- 2. President's Report**

- 3. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Zenner moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2025, meeting as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

- 4. Confirmation of Bills**

Commissioner Mrozek moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to approve the confirmation of the May 2025 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

- 5. Police Chief Report**

Commissioner Mrozek moved, seconded by Commissioner Zenner, to approve the Police Chief report and place it on file for May 2025.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

- 6. Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) (considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility) for the following:**

- Discussion, with possible action, to approve Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Luke Kratzke to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the completion of his probation, effective June 8, 2025.

Roll Call into closed session: Commissioners Behrendt, Kirschling, Mrozek, Zenner

Chapter IV – Open Meetings and Public Records from the Handbook for Wisconsin Police and Fire Commissioners (League of Wisconsin Municipalities):

Commission meeting minutes need not recount what was discussed in a closed session, but any formal action taken by the commission while in closed session, including each motion made, the identity of members offering or seconding a motion, and how each member present voted on the motion, must be recorded in the minutes and may be subject to disclosure under the public records law. (Wisconsin Statutes § 19.88(3))

Roll Call into open session: Commissioners Behrendt, Kirschling, Mrozek, Zenner

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Behrendt, to approve Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Luke Kratzke to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the completion of his probation, effective June 8, 2025.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Fire Chief Report/EMS Report/EM Report

Commissioner Mrozek moved, seconded by Commissioner Zenner, to approve the Fire Chief/EMS/EM reports and place them on file for May 2025.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

These Minutes are unofficial and subject to modification upon review by the Commission at their next meeting.

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2025, at 10:00 AM**

- 1. Roll Call:** Commissioners Behrendt, Kirschling, Mrozek, Pingel, Zenner

Also Present: Police Chief Kussow, Fire Chief Moody, Ast. Chief Gemza, Ast. Chief Zvara, City Attorney Beveridge, Alderperson Kneebone, RB Supervisor Tork

- 2. Approval of Minutes (special meeting of May 28, 2025)**

Commissioner Zenner moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025, special meeting as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

- 3. Discussion, with possible action, on moving forward with the employment of entry-level Firefighters/Paramedics.**

Commissioner Mrozek moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to move forward with the employment of entry-level Firefighters/Paramedics (six offers).

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

- 4. Adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(f) (Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations) and Art. I, Sec. 9m of the Wisconsin Constitution (rights of victims of crimes) for the following:**

– Discussion on internal investigation of a former Stevens Point Fire Dept. employee.

Roll Call into closed session: Commissioners Behrendt, Kirschling, Mrozek, Pingel, Zenner

Chapter IV – Open Meetings and Public Records from the Handbook for Wisconsin Police and Fire Commissioners (League of Wisconsin Municipalities):

Commission meeting minutes need not recount what was discussed in a closed session, but any formal action taken by the commission while in closed session, including each motion made, the identity of members offering or seconding a motion, and how each member

present voted on the motion, must be recorded in the minutes and may be subject to disclosure under the public records law. (Wisconsin Statutes § 19.88(3))

5. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Date Paid	Vendor Name	Description	Amount Paid
06/13/2025	STEVENS POINT PUBLIC UTILITIES	1701 FRANKLIN ST-2	372.10
06/17/2025	WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE	GAS/ELECTRIC CHARGES - MAY 2025	1,168.38
06/27/2025	TERMINIX WIL-KIL	PEST CONTROL - STA. 2	31.92
06/27/2025	IMPERIAL DADE	DRAIN HOSE	34.20
06/27/2025	HAKES WELLNESS SOLUTIONS LLC	WELLNESS VISIT- HIONIS	60.00
06/27/2025	ASPIRUS MEDICAL GROUP INC	QUARTERLY RANDOM DRUG TEST	36.25
06/27/2025	NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE	TRAUMA ADVISORY CONFERENCE - PARKMAN	40.00
Grand Totals:			<u>1,742.85</u>



STEVENS POINT POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

*The Uniform Allowance line item is also used for the total annual allowance of \$5015, which is paid on the second payroll check in January. Due to this amount being paid through payroll, it will not show on this report.

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
EXPENDITURES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET
FOR THE 5 MONTHS ENDING MAY 31, 2025

GENERAL FUND - AMBULANCE

		BUDGET	CURRENT MO	YTD ACTUAL	BALANCE	%
UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	100.52.25300.1670	12,600	11,560	11,560	1,040	91.75
GAS/ELECTRIC CHARGES	100.52.25300.2200	21,059	8,181	8,181	12,878	38.85
TELEPHONE UTILITY CHARGES	100.52.25300.2203	8,236	1,922	1,922	6,314	23.34
WATER/SEWER UTILITY CHARGES	100.52.25300.2204	2,500	649	649	1,851	25.95
TV SERVICES	100.52.25300.2212	1,700	221	221	1,479	12.99
IT/COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	100.52.25300.2800	2,000	27	27	1,973	1.34
CONTRACTED SERVICES - GEN	100.52.25300.2902	1,000	362	362	638	36.17
IT CONTRACTED SERVICES	100.52.25300.2906					.00
SOFTWARE LICENSE FEES	100.52.25300.2907	25,000	15,948	15,948	9,052	63.79
CONTRACTED RADIO/COMM MAINT	100.52.25300.2913	535	165	165	370	30.84
GENERAL OFFICE SUPPLIES	100.52.25300.3001	2,500	632	632	1,868	25.30
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	100.52.25300.3025	10,000	5,041	5,041	4,959	50.41
MEMBERSHIP DUES	100.52.25300.3202	1,090	518	518	573	47.48
MILEAGE EXPENSES	100.52.25300.3301	1,070			1,070	.00
GEN BUILDING MAINT & SUPPLIES	100.52.25300.3550	12,000	2,276	2,276	9,724	18.97
INITIAL CLOTHING	100.52.25300.3803		389	389	(389)	.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	100.52.25300.5000		251	251	(251)	.00
WELLNESS EXPENSES	100.52.25300.5021	4,000	1,161	1,161	2,839	29.03
GEN HEALTH/SAFETY EXP	100.52.25300.5601	535	358	358	177	66.93
PUBLIC EDUCATION EXP	100.52.25300.5650	5,000	2,741	2,741	2,259	54.81
COVID-19 EXPENDITURES	100.52.25300.5700					.00
GEN SEMINAR/EDUCATION EXP.	100.52.25300.5910	10,000	7,297	7,297	2,703	72.97
PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING	100.52.25300.5911	7,000			7,000	.00
EDUCATIONAL COMPENSATION	100.52.25300.5912	4,280	566	566	3,714	13.23
REGULATED MANDATED EXPEND	100.52.25300.5913	1,070			1,070	.00
CONTRACT'L RTN OF SURPLUS FDS	100.52.25300.5980					.00
COMPUTER SYSTEM UPGRADES	100.52.25300.8000					.00
STATION UPGRADES	100.52.25300.8100					.00
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES		133,175	60,263	60,263	72,912	45.25

Date Paid	Vendor Name	Description	Amount Paid
06/17/2025	WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE	GAS/ELECTRIC CHARGES - MAY 2025	1,168.41
06/13/2025	STEVENS POINT PUBLIC UTILITIES	1701 FRANKLIN ST	372.11
06/20/2025	STAR BUSINESS MACHINES INC	BI-ANNUAL COPIER MAINT CONTRACT-FIRE	123.13
06/20/2025	STAR BUSINESS MACHINES INC	BI-ANNUAL COPIER MAINT CONTRACT-EMS	123.13
06/27/2025	TERMINIX WIL-KIL	PEST CONTROL - STA. 2	31.93
06/27/2025	IMPERIAL DADE	DRAIN HOSE	34.21
06/27/2025	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	CREDIT	10.00-
06/27/2025	GREAT LAKES TESTING INC	ANNUAL LADDER TESTING	1,574.00
06/27/2025	TURNOUT MANAGEMENT	TURNOUT GEAR REPAIR	103.75
06/27/2025	POINT TROPHY LLC	COIN ENGRAVING	17.50
06/27/2025	HAKES WELLNESS SOLUTIONS LLC	WELLNESS VISIT- HIONIS	60.00
06/27/2025	ASPIRUS MEDICAL GROUP INC	QUARTERLY RANDOM DRUG TEST	36.25
06/27/2025	OESTREICH, ROSS	BOATER'S SAFETY COURSE - OESTREICH	48.42
Grand Totals:			<u>3,682.84</u>



STEVENS POINT POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

*The Uniform Allowance line item is also used for the total annual allowance of \$7185, which is paid on the second payroll check in January. Due to this amount being paid through payroll, it will not show on this report.

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
EXPENDITURES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET
FOR THE 5 MONTHS ENDING MAY 31, 2025

GENERAL FUND - FIRE DEPARTMENT

		BUDGET	CURRENT MO	YTD ACTUAL	BALANCE	%
UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	100.52.25270.1670	18,900	19,340	19,340 (	440)	102.33
GAS/ELECTRIC CHARGES	100.52.25270.2200	21,059	8,181	8,181	12,878	38.85
TELEPHONE UTILITY CHARGES	100.52.25270.2203	13,731	2,834	2,834	10,897	20.64
WATER/SEWER UTIL CHARGES	100.52.25270.2204	3,551	649	649	2,902	18.27
TV SERVICES	100.52.25270.2212	1,325	221	221	1,104	16.67
IT/COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	100.52.25270.2800					.00
CONTRACTED SERVICES - GEN	100.52.25270.2902	2,000	227	227	1,773	11.35
IT CONTRACTED SERVICES	100.52.25270.2906	500			500	.00
SOFTWARE LICENSE FEES	100.52.25270.2907	18,225	17,559	17,559	666	96.34
CONTRACTED RADIO/COMM MAINT	100.52.25270.2913	2,000	210	210	1,790	10.50
GENERAL OFFICE SUPPLIES	100.52.25270.3001	3,000	857	857	2,144	28.55
MEMBERSHIP DUES	100.52.25270.3202	2,500	1,093	1,093	1,407	43.71
MILEAGE EXPENSES	100.52.25270.3301	250			250	.00
GEN BUILDING MAINT & SUPPLIES	100.52.25270.3550	10,500	3,931	3,931	6,569	37.44
TRAINING SITE EXPENSES	100.52.25270.3560	2,000	1,367	1,367	633	68.33
FIRE HOSES & FITTINGS	100.52.25270.3650	1,000			1,000	.00
GENERAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	100.52.25270.3651	9,000	3,036	3,036	5,964	33.73
PERSONAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	100.52.25270.3652	3,000	2,721	2,721	279	90.70
INITIAL CLOTHING	100.52.25270.3803		281	281 (	281)	.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	100.52.25270.5000	2,000	427	427	1,573	21.33
WELLNESS EXPENSES	100.52.25270.5021		210	210 (	210)	.00
GEN HEALTH/SAFETY EXP	100.52.25270.5601	2,000	772	772	1,228	38.62
PUBLIC EDUCATION EXP	100.52.25270.5650	5,000	1,464	1,464	3,536	29.28
GEN SEMINAR/EDUCATION EXP	100.52.25270.5910	19,000	6,152	6,152	12,848	32.38
PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING	100.52.25270.5911	3,630			3,630	.00
EDUCATIONAL COMPENSATION	100.52.25270.5912	10,000	1,289	1,289	8,711	12.89
FIRE DEPT DONATION EXP	100.52.25270.5930					.00
COMPUTER SYSTEM UPGRADES	100.52.25270.8000	2,000			2,000	.00
STATION UPGRADES	100.52.25270.8100	2,500			2,500	.00
BREATHING APPARATUS	100.52.25270.8500	3,000	2,672	2,672	328	89.06
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES		161,671	75,491	75,491	86,180	46.69

Date Paid	Vendor Name	Description	Amount Paid
06/27/2025	PORTAGE COUNTY TREASURER	RANGE - APRIL - CITY HALF	30.00
06/27/2025	PORTAGE COUNTY TREASURER	RANGE - MAY - CITY HALF	30.50
06/24/2025	AT&T - 5071	DISPATCH PHONE	693.35
06/27/2025	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS - 223085	TV/ CABLE - 933 MICHIGAN	239.50
06/27/2025	LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES	INTERPRETER- SPANISH	322.89
06/20/2025	STAR BUSINESS MACHINES INC	BI-ANNUAL COPIER MAINT CONTRACT-PD	162.00
06/20/2025	STAR BUSINESS MACHINES INC	BI-ANNUAL COPIER MAINT CONTRACT-PD (FLOOR MODEL)	203.84
06/17/2025	WM CORPORATE SERVICES INC	GARBAGE/RECYCLING - SPPD 933 MICHIGAN AVE	395.74
06/17/2025	COMPLETE OFFICE OF WI INC	BOX OF MANILA ENVELOPES	51.00
06/17/2025	COMPLETE OFFICE OF WI INC	BOXES OF PAPER	577.50
06/13/2025	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	BATTERY	213.06
06/13/2025	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	BELT/TENSIONER	80.77
06/13/2025	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	CREDIT	158.17-
06/17/2025	BIADASZ, LARSEN	CARWASH REIMBURSEMENT	8.00
06/27/2025	PUROCLEAN	SQUAD 6 CLEAN - HEROIN & FETANYL FROM SUSPECT BODY	450.00
06/27/2025	TERMINIX WIL-KIL	SQUAD 3 CLEAN - BEDBUG TREATMENT	477.00
06/27/2025	JOHNSON, JOSEPH	PERSONAL CARD FOR SWAT WATER/ICE	16.07
06/27/2025	STREICHER'S	FLASHLIGHT KIT/REPAIR	39.98
06/17/2025	ASPIRUS INC	OWI BLOOD DRAWS	429.00
06/17/2025	LEXIPOL LLC	ANNUAL MANUEL & TRAINING BULLETINS	12,374.39
06/17/2025	ACEK9	ACE WATCH DOG SERVER SUBSCRIPTION - BALLEW/DIENGER	336.00
06/27/2025	MARCHEL, KRIS	MEAL MONEY REIMB	142.00
06/27/2025	MOLSKI, STEPHANIE	MEAL MONEY REIMB	107.00
06/27/2025	NISSSEN, JORDAN	MEAL MONEY REIMB	142.00
06/17/2025	NWTC - NORTHEAST WI TECHNICAL COLLEGE	DRONE SCHOOL - STANKOWSKI & PLUMMBER	398.00
06/27/2025	TORK, CANDY	MEAL MONEY REIMB	107.00
06/27/2025	YANG, CHI	MEAL MONEY REIMB	142.00
06/17/2025	WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE	GAS/ELECTRIC CHARGES - MAY 2025	3,740.69
06/17/2025	BUSHMAN ELECTRIC CRANE & SIGN	REPAIR NEON "POLICE" SIGN	759.00
06/27/2025	GREEN BEE CLEANING	CLEANING SERVICE JUNE- 933 MICHIGAN	2,000.00
06/27/2025	TWEET/GAROT MECHANICAL INC- 8706	RTU CONDENSER FAN	1,892.56
06/27/2025	TWEET/GAROT MECHANICAL INC- 8706	HVAC SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE	8,875.00
06/17/2025	VAN DREEL PLUMBING & HEATING LLC	ASSEMBLY & REPAIR KIT & LABOR	350.00
06/27/2025	NASSCO INC	TISSUE, TOWELS, LINERS	362.87
06/27/2025	WERNER ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY	LED LIGHTS (25)	207.75
Grand Totals:			36,198.29



STEVENS POINT POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

*The Uniform Allowance line item is also used for the total annual allowance of \$5700, which is paid on the second payroll check in January. Due to this amount being paid through payroll, it will not show on this report.

GENERAL FUND - POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Latest: DOOR TO MOVE STEVENS POINT



POINT / PLOVER METRO WIRE

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Stevens Point Fire Chief Jb Moody. (Metro Wire photo)

People of Portage County: From growing up in a firehouse, to leading the department

June 24, 2025

By Brian Kurzynski

“I’ve always told every one of my firefighters, ‘If you’re not moving forward in this career field, you’re moving backwards.’”

That principle of steady progress has guided Fire Chief Jb Moody from his boyhood helping out around Nekoosa’s firehouse, across the years of his military service, and throughout his rise through the ranks of the Stevens Point Fire Department to the office of chief.

“I grew up in Nekoosa with Mom, Dad, and my younger brother, Dustin,” Moody said.

“Family has always been very important to me. My great-grandparents lived on a farm, and when the next generations came along, the kids would all help out with the farmwork on weekends and during the summer.”

Because of his father, Moody was raised within the world of firefighting and EMS (emergency medical services).

“Dad worked many jobs at once to support the family, and he was a volunteer firefighter paramedic for the city of Nekoosa for 43 years,” Moody said. “So I grew up around it. I’d go with Dad on the weekends and help out at the firehouse—cleaning apparatuses, learning how to do maintenance and inventory checks. I helped build our floats for the parade and handed out pumpkins. That was a big thing the fire department did for many years—we had a pumpkin patch and would hand out pumpkins to all the little kids at the parades.”

Other family members provided him with a strong military influence.

“My uncle was active duty Navy, and many of my other relatives were members of the military,” Moody said. “So I always wanted to be part of the military and part of fire and EMS. It was there from an early age, staring me in the face.”

At the age of 14, Moody started working at the Nekoosa city swimming pool. He eventually became the lead lifeguard and managed the facility. It was during those teenage years that he met the young lady he would one day marry.

“My wife, Miranda, and I were high school sweethearts,” Moody said. “We celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary this year. She’s actually the assistant principal at P.J. Jacobs Junior High School. We have one daughter, Maya, and she’ll be a junior at SPASH. She’s my hunting buddy and my partner in crime on a lot of things. She keeps me on my toes.”

After graduating from Nekoosa High School in 1998, Moody’s military career began.

“I went right into the Air National Guard, where I was trained to be a medic,” he said. “We were trained on many different aspects—you could work in immunization clinics, in an ER, on a med-surg floor, in OB (obstetrics), pretty much anything you wanted. It gave you a well-rounded experience in medicine, and then you could define what you wanted to do from there.”

Moody began a two-year active duty assignment, during which he suffered a very unexpected and unusual injury.

“I was struck by lightning. That’s why I wear a hearing aid,” Moody explained. “It blew out part of the eardrum and has caused some problems with my equilibrium as well as a cardiac issue. It’s one of those fun facts that you don’t know about a person. I’ve actually been struck by lightning twice. When I was going to college, I did a study on people being struck and learned about the repolarization of the body and all the different things that play into it.”

After two years on active duty, Moody returned to the area as a traditional Guardsman with the 115th Fighter Wing out of Madison and began studying nursing at Mid-State Technical College. It was during that nursing program that Sept. 11 happened.

“I was working on a med-surg floor taking care of a patient when I saw the World Trade Center towers go down,” Moody recalled. “That’s when I was deployed for the first time overseas.”

During his first deployment, Moody was stationed primarily in Saudi Arabia, where he worked in the emergency room of a base hospital located near the flight line—the area where aircraft are prepared for takeoff and landing. Upon returning from his deployment, Moody gained paramedic certification and increased his involvement in the fire department. In 2004, he became a fire and EMS instructor at Mid-State Technical College. Just one year later, he was called up for another deployment to the Middle East.

“I was deployed a second time in 2005 for a six-month tour primarily in Iraq,” Moody said. “During that time, I did many different things—flight medicine, flying on the Blackhawks; I was part of an Army detachment for a while; I worked at Baghdad International Airport and down in the Green Zone. I kind of made my way all over the place.”

While a random lightning strike injured Moody during his initial active duty period, it was his second overseas deployment that took a heavy physical toll.

“I came back home pretty banged up and was not able to return to work right away,” Moody said. “I ripped part of my pectoral muscle, the rotator cuff on that side was gone, my

clavicle was fractured in four spots, part of my arm was just totally ripped apart. I also sustained an injury to my leg in a different situation.”

Recovery would prove to be a long road for Moody.

“I had to go through about six months of physical therapy, rehab, and reconditioning of my body. By the time I was able to come back on the line as a firefighter paramedic, to the job I had left and loved so much, about a year had passed since I deployed with my unit.”

In 2008, Moody was discharged from the military, allowing him to devote 100 percent of his energy to his fire and EMS work, but his departure from the military was not easy.

“My career in the military was very successful for the short time I was in—1997 to 2008. I got out as a master sergeant; I was selected as Airman of the Year and NCO (noncommissioned officer) of the Year for the state of Wisconsin, along with some other awards given by the governor. Some prestigious awards that have been tucked away and that most people don’t know about anymore. But that was a lifetime ago.”

The next 17 years saw Moody’s rapid rise through the ranks of the Stevens Point Fire Department. He started as a firefighter paramedic, then progressed to interim lead paramedic, and achieved the rank of lieutenant in 2010. In 2012, he earned an associate paramedic technician degree from Mid-State Technical College.

“I bounced between the two firehouses,” Moody said, “kind of as a frontline supervisor on the heavy pieces. Then in 2015, I became a shift commander and eventually moved over to the assistant chief of fire department operations in 2018.”

In 2020, Moody completed a bachelor’s degree in leadership and organizational studies from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh. He was named chief of the Stevens Point Fire Department in 2022. In early 2025, Moody earned a national-level certification as a Pro Board-certified Fire Officer IV, and he has since begun working on a master’s degree.

When asked whether one position has been his favorite, Moody said, “To be honest with you, one of my favorite positions was being a firefighter paramedic. It’s a community servant leadership style because you’re there to serve the people of your community when they call 911 on their worst days. That’s a great position here.”

As much as he might have enjoyed that role, Moody approaches his position as chief with the same mindset of constant growth and forward movement.

“I love being a fire chief,” Moody said. “It’s a very intense job in that you never totally turn it off, but I find it to be a very rewarding position. I wanted to go to a department that was busy. I wanted to be serving the community, and Stevens Point was that place. It has

provided me a home and the opportunity to grow, and we have continued to stay busy here as a department.”

Moody concluded, “I look at it this way—I need to understand budgets, people, evaluations, strategic planning, and how departments work together within the community. That’s why I chose the training and educational path that I did over the years. So I’ve always told every one of my firefighters out there, ‘If you’re not moving forward in this career field, you’re moving backwards.’ There is no opportunity in just allowing yourself to stagnate in that middle ground. It doesn’t work that way, not here.”



Stevens Point Police Department

933 Michigan Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: 715-346-1500 / Fax: 715-346-1684

*"Innovative Policing through
Partnerships with the Community"*



Robert J. Kussow, Chief of Police

August 5, 2025

Chief Kussow

August 5th, 2025 marks the end of the 18-month probationary period for Officer Lucas Hughes. I am pleased to recommend Officer Hughes for permanent status.

Officer Hughes has shown consistent progress over the past 18 months. His work ethic, job performance and willingness to become more involved with the department are all strong assets to his character and dedication. Officer Hughes takes pride in his work and strives to become better every day. Officer Hughes is very humble, respectful and takes the opportunity to show compassion and empathy while dealing with the public. Officer Hughes stays busy with self-initiated tasks when call volume is slow, and has shown he can conduct thorough investigations. Officer Hughes is a team player and doesn't hesitate to help out other Officers. Officer Hughes has quickly become a valuable member of the shift and has good working relationships with all members of the department. Officer Hughes will ask questions when he doesn't know something, or find out where to get the answer to better his knowledge of the job. I have no doubt that Officer Hughes will continue to be a very valuable asset to the Stevens Point Police Department, and I believe that he will have a very bright future with our Department.

Officer Hughes has successfully completed his 18-month period as a probationary Officer and I recommend that he be placed on permanent status effective August 5, 2025.

Respectfully,

Lt. Justin Klein

CC: Assistant Chief Williams/Chief Kussow



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Robert J. Kussow, Chief of Police

Daniel King grew up outside of Menomonie, Wisconsin, and graduated from Menomonie High School in 2020 with a 3.5 GPA. Daniel participated in track & field, wrestling, football, and musicals while in high school. Daniel attended UW-Stout in Menomonie for 2 years and then transferred to UW-Stevens Point where he has a GPA of 3.29 in Health Science and Wellness and he will be graduating in December of 2025.

Daniel is also in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Daniel joined the Army in January of 2020. Daniel is already enrolled in the August 8, 2025, Mid-State Technical College 720 Law Enforcement Academy, which has a graduation scheduled for December of 2025.

Daniel's references, along with current and past work supervisors, all had great things to say about him. Daniel is described as a detail-oriented person, very hard worker, caring, trustworthy, very focused, good listener, easy to talk to, and great at time management. Daniel grew up with both parents working in law enforcement, so he knows some of the struggles of the job but also that it is a very honorable and rewarding career. Daniel's mother is currently a State Patrol Officer, and his father is a retired University of Wisconsin-Stout Police Officer. Daniel has been in the Army for over five years, which is a great attribute.

Detective Lawrynck, a 27-year veteran, did Daniel's background and stated that he believes Daniel would be a great addition to the Stevens Point Police Department.

We are asking for the Police and Fire Commission's approval to hire Daniel King as a Patrol Officer, w/out recruit schooling, with the Stevens Point Police Department, upon successful completion of both the psychological and medical screening. With the understanding that Daniel will complete and pass the 720-hour Law Enforcement Academy which is scheduled to begin August 8, 2025, at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Robert Kussow



Stevens Point Police Department

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*"Innovative Policing through
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Robert J. Kussow, Chief of Police

July 10, 2025

Police and Fire Commission
City of Stevens Point

Re: June 2025 Chief of Police Report

Commissioners:

The Department would like to make you aware of the following updates:

Personnel: 46/49 (including the 2 in the academy)

Note of Interest:

- June 2, 2025 – Stevens Point Honor Guard present colors for International Association of Arson Investigators.
- June 3, 2025 – 2nd Quarter Lt. meeting
- June 3, 2025- Lt. Johnson assisted with Active Shooter training at the Boys and Girls Club annual training for all their summer staff.
- June 7, 2025 – Cops n Bobbers attended by Ast. Chief William and several other officers throughout Portage County.
- June 11, 2025 - The SWAT team completed their annual tryout. 3 SPPD officers tried out for the team, to create an eligibility list in case there is an opening sometime in the next 12 months.
- June 12, 2025 – Lt. Johnson sat on an interview panel for Marathon County SWAT Team.
- June 16, 2025 – Started another hiring process due to expected retirements in January, 2026.
- June 18, 2025 – Riverfront Rendezvous' security meeting with Parks, Fire, and Portage County. (Event action plans put into place: weather/lost child)
- June 18, 2025 – Lt. Johnson presented twice to the employees of Lineage Cold Storage on Active Shooter/Run, Hide, Fight.
- June 23, 2025 – Ofc. Kramer participated in the Safety Fair at Head Start on West River Dr. Handed out coloring books and gave tours of a squad.
- June 24, 2025 – CSO Hensel, Lt. Johnson and I met with Pacelli Staff with a plan to take over parking enforcement for the school.
- June 25, 2025 – Lt. Johnson met with the staff at Aspirus Behavioral Health on Prentice St. to discuss Active Threats/Shooters situations in their building.

- June 27, 2025 – Honor Guard and several Officers attended memorial for Deputy Ken Tschudy.

Calls of Interest:

- 06-28-25 Vehicle Fire Theater lot, SPPD Officers & FD responded to report of vehicle fire with injuries. While enroute, report of the male re-entering the burning car and crashing into another car. Fire and burn injuries sustained by the lone male appeared to be self-inflicted/ possible suicide attempt.
- 06-29-25 Suspicious 1200 blk Main St., SPPD Officers responded to report of a male placing Q-tips on cars. Upon further investigation the male was found to be in possession of drugs and resisted arrest. The male was taken to jail.
- 06-28-25 Temporary Restraining Order violation, 900 blk Michigan, SPPD Officers responded to residence to investigate a male who spray painted the callers window. The male suspect has a restraining order for no contact with caller. Male was taken to jail.
- 06-27-25 Disturbance outside Elbow Room, SPPD Officers responded to a fight between 3 males. Two of the males were arrested for resisting, bail jumping, disorderly conduct. One of the males was found to be in possession of a firearm without a CCW. The third male has charges pending.
- 06-27-25 Fight in front of the Franciscans, SPPD Officers responded to physical fight between two males. Upon further investigation, the fight started with an argument over how strong the coffee was. Both male cited and one taken to jail on probation hold.
- 06-24-25 Traffic stop/ Vehicle Pursuit, SPPD Officers attempted to stop vehicle for speeding. Unidentified driver fled on foot abandoning the vehicle along with 9.94 G of cocaine, \$1522 Cash and THC.
- 06-23-25 Suspicious, KASH Park Bathroom, SPPD Officers responded to investigate report of people in the bathroom for extended periods of time. Contact made with subjects with a meth pipe in plain view. Search of property found meth and THC pipe. One subject arrested for poss. of meth, transported to jail.
- 06-21-25 Crash Clark and Division, SPPD Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash in which the suspect vehicle failed to stop for red light at high rate of speed. As result, the other vehicle was T-boned and rolled 3 times. The driver of the suspect vehicle fled and was later contacted at her residence, arrested for OWI 3rd causing injury & operating after revocation, obstructing, and bail jumping.
- 06-21-25 Physical Fight, 700Blk of Bukolt, SPPD Officers responded to investigate a physical fight between upstairs and downstairs neighbors. Apparently, neighbors have been arguing and agreed to fight each other. Citations issued to both.
- 06-21-25 Disturbance with a knife, Main and Strongs. SPPD Officers responded to investigate. Upon further investigation, two subjects were arguing and one threaten to use a knife to slash some tires. Parties separated and report sent to DA's office.

- 06-07-25 Assist Wood Co. **Possible Stolen vehicle**, SPPD Officers located the occupied vehicle and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. The suspect vehicle fled from officers leading to a pursuit. Officers were able to make contact with suspect vehicle after the vehicle crashed near I-39 and Casmir Rd. The suspected driver of vehicle was taken to jail for multiple offenses.
- 06-06-25 Gun Call, municipal lot Main and Church, SPPD Officers responded to report that a **male flashed a gun** to the caller making verbal threat. Both parties were contacted by officers and found to be in possession of firearms. Follow up pending.
- 06-06-25 Road Rage, UWSP /PTSO responded to Division and Academy for report of **male driver with gun** as SPPD Officers were investigating the first gun call. Unknown outcome.

Monthly Use of Force Reporting (annual total in parenthesis):

Number of Use of Force Incidents: 9 (39)

June Use of Force Summaries

- 5/27/25 -Officers were at a residence for a welfare check on some children who were possibly being taken care of by several intoxicated adults. There was no answer at the door and a subject could be seen on the couch not moving. Due to the unknown as to whether the subject needed medical assistance or was ignoring law enforcement, entry was forced into the residence and officers drew their weapons for officer safety considerations while entering a residence under these circumstances. Officers located several intoxicated people and 2 juveniles not being taken care of inside the residence.
- 5/30/25 – Officers went to an address to check for a wanted subject. The officers made contact with that subject and advised them they were under arrest. The subject refused to listen and tried to walk away. The officers were forced to grab onto the subject who continued to tense up and pull away, so the officers forced the subject to the ground, face down, using wrist pressure as well and handcuffed the subject without any injuries.
- 6/7/25 – Officers were attempting to locate a stolen vehicle from Wood County. One officer located the vehicle and conducted a high-risk traffic stop, pointing their duty weapons at the vehicle and sole occupant. The vehicle then left the location of the traffic stop at a high rate of speed, violating several traffic signs. Officers pursued this vehicle, north, out of town on the interstate. The vehicle tried to get off the interstate using an offramp but failed to maintain control of the vehicle and crashed. The officers pointed their weapons at the occupant as they took the driver into custody without incident.
- 6/12/25 – Officers were trying to locate a suspect believed to be selling meth to local unhoused. The suspect was located on a bicycle and tried to flee on the bicycle from officers. One officer was able to catch up with the suspect and push the suspect off of the bicycle. The suspect crashed and fell over the front of the bicycle onto the sidewalk, getting a bloody nose from the fall. The suspect was taken into custody. The suspect also lost a lense from their glasses when they fell.

- 6/19/25 – Officers were doing a welfare check on a subject slumped over the steering wheel inside a vehicle. Officers made contact with the subject who became resistive and refused to get out of the vehicle. Officers were forced to pull the subject from the vehicle to the ground where they applied wrist pressure until the handcuffs were applied. The subject was later jailed on because they had warrants and several other charges.
- 6/20/25 – The Stevens Point/Plover SWAT Team executed a search warrant on a residence in Plover. During the warrant members of the SWAT team pointed their assigned duty weapons at occupants inside the residence. All occupants were taken into custody without incident or injury.
- 6/25/25 – SPPD Detectives assisted an outside agency with the execution of a drug warrant in Adams County. During the execution of the warrant SPPD Detectives pointed their service weapons at occupants inside the residence, while taking them into custody. No injuries.
- 6/27/25 – SPPD Officers were on welfare check, working with an individual who was suicidal. The subject refused to speak with officers and tried to leave. Officers were trying to place the subject in handcuffs as the subject was trying to push past them, so they were forced to take the subject to the ground. When doing so, the subject hit their face on the ground, breaking off a piece of their tooth. The subject, however, refused to answer if they were injured in any way. The subject was later taken to the hospital for assistance.
- 6/29/25 – SPPD Officers were informed a fight in the basement of a local establishment. While officers were investigating the fight, another fight began. Officers tried to intervene and take the subject into custody. The subject resisted and was taken to the ground, where the subject was handcuffed without injury.

Detectives Report for June:

- Drug Detectives have assisted the Drug Task Force with several warrants. They have arrested and charged several local individuals with drug crimes over the past month and seized heroin, cocaine, THC, and fentanyl.
- Det. Lepak continues his investigations into frauds/scams. He and another Wood County Detective have gained some ground with State Legislators on the BitCoin machines and possibly getting some regulations set in place, either a 72 hour hold on the money for first time user and holding the kiosk operator responsible for the funds. This was a response from Senator Kelda Roys.
- Det. Drossel has been working diligently on follow up from patrol on a gunshot report. Lots of video has been collected from supportive citizens, the case is still under investigation and was recently reported on Crimestoppers.
- Sensitive Crimes Detectives have been very busy assisting Child Protective Services with cases from sexual assault to abuse and neglect. Many cases coming to the Detective Bureau have been CPS relating or sexual assault cases. They also received 2 ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) cases in June with one being reassigned to PTSO.

- Detectives, along with Lt. Johnson, Lt. Roser and Ofc. DesRosier also worked on and completed 9 background checks this month for the current SPPD Hiring process.

Mental health related incidents: Officers Responded to the following in June:

- Total welfare checks for 2025 – 403
 - 95 Welfare Checks
 - 4 Chapter 51's
 - 10 Voluntary

Auxiliary Unit:

- Levitt Amp on 6-5-25, 6-12-25, 6-26-25
- Walk Wisconsin 6-7-25
- Cops and Bobbers 6-7-25

Training:

- June 1/June 4 - Ast. Chief Rottier and Chief Kussow attended WI Police Executive Group Conference
- 6-10-25 School Resource Officer Conference – Ofc. Nissen, Ofc. Marchel and Ofc. Yang
- 6-13-25 Threat Assessment Training – Ofc. Nissen
- 6-18-25 Honor Guard Basic – Lead Ofc. O'Neil
- 6-18-25 Law Enforcement Admin Professionals – Candy Tork, Steph Molski
- 6-23/6-24-25 – Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement – Ofc. Gaylord

Field Training (FTO):

- Ofc. Dolores Lenz on Solo Patrol as of 6-13-25
- Ofc. Biadasz – Shadow

K9/School Resource Officers:

K9:

- 8 Deployments resulting in 4 arrests
 - Methamphetamine
 - Cocaine

SPASH

- **Calls for Service: Schools out for the summer.**

PJ Jacobs

- **Calls for Service: Schools out for the summer.**

Ben Franklin

- **Calls for service: Schools out for the summer.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Robert Kussow
Stevens Point Police Department

Stevens Point Police Department 2024 Annual Report



MISSION:

To work professionally as a team

To promote public safety

*To enhance the quality of life in our community through innovative
policing and community partnerships*

INTEGRITY * SERVICE * TEAMWORK



From the desk of Police Chief Robert J. Kusow

As we reflect on the past year, it is my honor to share with you the work and achievements of our Police Department in 2024. Each day, we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving and protecting this community with integrity, respect, and professionalism. The challenges we face are ever evolving, but our dedication to working professionally as a team, to promoting public safety, and to enhancing the quality of life in our community through innovative policing and community partnerships remains constant.

This annual report highlights not only the work of our officers but also the collective efforts of the entire department. From the dedication of our patrol officers responding to emergencies, to the commitment of our detectives solving complex cases, to the invaluable contributions of our support staff; every member plays a crucial role in ensuring that our community is protected.

As we continue to address the evolving needs of our community, we have also placed a significant emphasis on officer wellness and training. We understand that public safety starts with a healthy, well-equipped, and well-prepared police department. Our commitment to mental health resources, de-escalation training, and specialized development ensures that our officers are equipped to respond to diverse situations with professionalism and compassion.

We have also taken strides toward embracing technology to improve our services: upgraded body cameras, upgraded squad cameras, upgraded taser technology, and by adding six hybrid patrol squads to our fleet.

However, none of our efforts would be possible without the support and partnership of the community.

On behalf of the entire Stevens Point Police Department, I thank you for your ongoing trust and support. It is an honor to serve this community, and I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure a safer, stronger Stevens Point for years to come.

Professionally,

*Robert Kusow
Chief of Police*



Stevens Point Police Department Strategic Direction

Long Term Objectives

#1

Preserve Public Safety

Improve on quality-of-life issues for the citizens of our community.

#2

Improve Community Awareness

Provide the community access with accurate and timely information on Department services and activities conducted. Ensure that the public perception of police activities reflect reality.

#3

Reduce Crime

Develop a comprehensive community-based initiative to reduce crime.

#4

Promote Traffic Safety

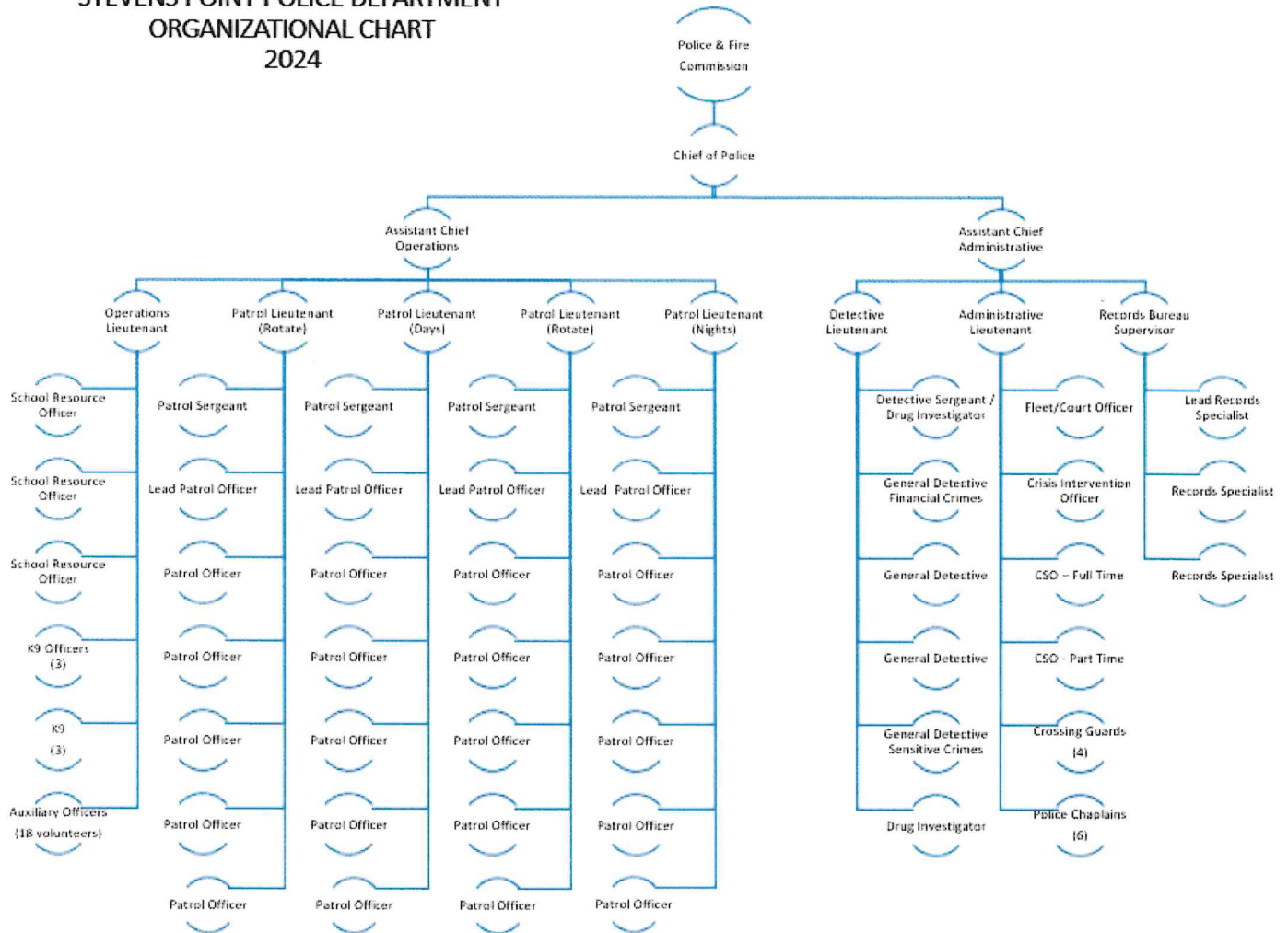
Collaborate to identify, prioritize, and implement a traffic safety plan.

#5

Develop and Manage Financial Resources

Locate financial sources and properly plan and manage them to allow ongoing support for the achievement of identified strategic objectives.

**STEVENS POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
2024**



◆2024 STAFF◆



*Police Chief
Robert Kussow*



*Assistant Chief
Michael Rottier*



*Assistant Chief
Dana Williams*



*Lieutenant
Joseph Johnson*



*Lieutenant
Steven Spath*



*Lieutenant
Jeremy Mueller*



*Lieutenant
Benjamin
Uitenbroek*



*Lieutenant
Michael Long*



*Lieutenant
Justin Klein*



*Lieutenant
Robert Roser*



*Sergeant
Andrew Poeschel*



*Sergeant (K9)
Jeremiah Ballew*



*Sergeant
Ross Wierzba*



*Sergeant
Alexander Beach*



*Lead Officer
Jordan Nissen*



*Lead Officer
Cole O'Neil*



*Lead Officer (K9)
Jason Dienger*



*Lead Officer
Jadon Solis*



*Crisis Intervention
Officer
Michael Radsek*



*Fleet Court
Officer
Michael Schultz*



*School Resource
Officer
Joseph Kramer*



*Detective
Kent Lepak*



*Detective
Matthew Drossel*



*Detective
Brian Brooks*



*School Resource
Officer (K9)
Kris Marchel*



*Patrol Officer
Ashley Hansen*



*Patrol Officer
Mel Plummer*



*Detective
Stormy Poeschel*



*School Resource
Officer
Chi Yang*



*Patrol Officer
Trevor Zingler*



*Patrol Officer
Kevin Gomez*



*Patrol Officer
Kimberly
DesRostier*



*Patrol Officer
Cody Stankowski*



*Patrol Officer
Stacy Morton*



*Patrol Officer
Samuel Hessel*



*Patrol Officer
James Harper*



*Patrol Officer
Lucas Hughes*



*Patrol Officer
Clayton
Madison-Dawson*



*Patrol Officer
Garrik Kjentvet*



*Patrol Officer
Larsen Biadasz*



*Patrol Officer
Malerie Gaylord*



*Patrol Officer
Ryan Flowerette*



*Patrol Officer
Bianca Patino*



Patrol Officer



*K9
Barry*



*K9
Willow*



*K9
Coye*



*Records Bureau
Supervisor
Candy Tork*



*Lead Records
Specialist
Rebecca Long*



*Records Specialist
Stephanie Molaski*



*Records Specialist
Nicole VanHulle*



*Community Service
Officer
Andrew Hensel*



*Community Service
Officer (Part-Time)
Devon Kowalski*

**Staff
as of
12/31/24**

◆ OPERATIONS SERVICES REPORT 2024 ◆

The Operations Division remains the largest and most diverse segment of the Stevens Point Police Department (SPPD), playing a pivotal role in maintaining the safety and security of our community. This division encompasses several specialized units, including Patrol officers, School Resource officers, SWAT, SWAT negotiators, K9 units, Auxiliary unit, and Department training. Each of these specialized areas contributes to our department's ability to respond effectively to a wide range of situations, ensuring our residents remain safe.

The Training program, overseen by the Operations Lieutenant, is a comprehensive and multi-faceted initiative that supports both professional development and operational readiness for all officers at the department. The program covers essential areas such as Field Training, Armorer, Range Instruction, Use of Force, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Professional Communications, and Vehicle Contacts. For each of these areas, a Master Instructor is assigned to ensure high standards and direct oversight. This commitment to training makes certain that all personnel are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the complex demands of law enforcement.

Patrol officers, as the backbone of the department, provide an array of critical police services across the city. Officers are responsible for patrolling assigned areas, responding to emergency calls, investigating criminal and civil offenses, and handling traffic accidents. In addition to enforcing laws and ordinances, officers work closely with the community, engaging in outreach and building positive relationships with residents. This proactive approach fosters trust and helps identify and address concerns before they escalate.

Together we continue to work toward our goal of delivering exemplary service to the residents of Stevens Point, ensuring that every individual feels safe and supported within our community

Calls for Service

The Stevens Point Police Department received 14,008 reported calls for service in 2024, an increase of 1.71% from 2023. The table below are some of the categories of calls and the increases/decreases in police responses in 2024. (Please note that some types of calls may fall under a different category than originally categorized):

	2023	2024	% Change
Welfare Checks	1610	1402	-12.92%
Disturbance	1047	898	-14.23%
Noise Complaints	215	205	-4.65%
Property Crimes	683	605	-11.42%
Suspicious Persons	1037	1139	9.84%
Trespassing	245	228	-6.94%
Threats/Harassment	332	336	1.20%

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING OFFENSE DATA
Community/Agency Comparison**

Based on calls for service the Stevens Point Police Department receives, our Records Bureau generates an Incident Based Report (IBR) that includes all calls that have an offense code identified. This IBR is presented to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offense data.

A preliminary copy of the 2024 UCR statistics has been included in this 2024 Annual Report. Also included for comparison is statistical data from the Wisconsin DOJ website identifying UCR offense reports from law enforcement jurisdictions in the Portage and Wood County area during the previous year (2023).



Preliminary UCR data from 2024 for the Stevens Point Police Department indicates a significant decrease in the area of Simple Assaults, Robbery, and Larceny. But there was an increase in Homicide, Rape, and Burglary within the City. (See UCR Offense Statistics table.)

2024 UCR OFFENSE STATISTICS (preliminary data submitted to WI Dept. of Justice)

Agency Name	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Vehicle Theft	Arson	Simple Assault
STEVENS POINT PD	2	10	1	33	14	156	6	2	113

2023 UCR OFFENSE STATISTICS

Agency Name	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Vehicle Theft	Arson	Simple Assault
STEVENS POINT PD	0	3	3	35	5	191	5	1	161
PLOVER PD	0	8	1	20	6	207	4	1	103
PORTAGE COUNTY SO	0	12	0	26	25	98	9	2	99
WOOD COUNTY SO	0	12	0	20	14	72	2	2	106

2023 UCR Offense Data
From WI Department of Justice
Website at www.doj.state.wi.us

**Stevens Point Police Department
Personnel within Operations Division**

The largest contingent of personnel within the Operations Division are those working Patrol. The Patrol Division consists of 29 officers working four scheduled shifts. As this is the largest group of personnel within the Department, it also normally sees the highest level of change in staffing due to retirements, resignations, and reassignments. The previous year was no different.

Retirements



Officer Joe Quisler retired in January 2024 with 26.5 years of dedicated service to the City of Stevens Point.



Lieutenant John Moss retired in January 2024 with 25.5 years of dedicated service to the City of Stevens Point.



Officer Kristi Ahrens retired in July 2024 with 17.5 years of dedicated service to the City of Stevens Point.

Permanent Officer Status



Officer Samuel Hessel was granted permanent Officer status in January 2024.



Officer Jadon Solis was granted permanent Officer status in April 2024.

New Officers



Officer Lucas Hughes began his service to the City of Stevens Point in February 2024.



Officer Clayton Madison-Dawson began his service to the City of Stevens Point in March 2024.



Officer Garrik Kjenvet began his service to the City of Stevens Point in May 2024.



Officer Larsen Biadasz began his service to the City of Stevens Point in August 2024.



Officer Malerie Gaylord began her service to the City of Stevens Point in October 2024.



Officer Ryan Flowerette began his service to the City of Stevens Point in December 2024.



Officer Bianca Patino began her service to the City of Stevens Point in December 2024.

**Stevens Point Police Department
Citation Totals Report
01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024
(Data collected from TRACS)**

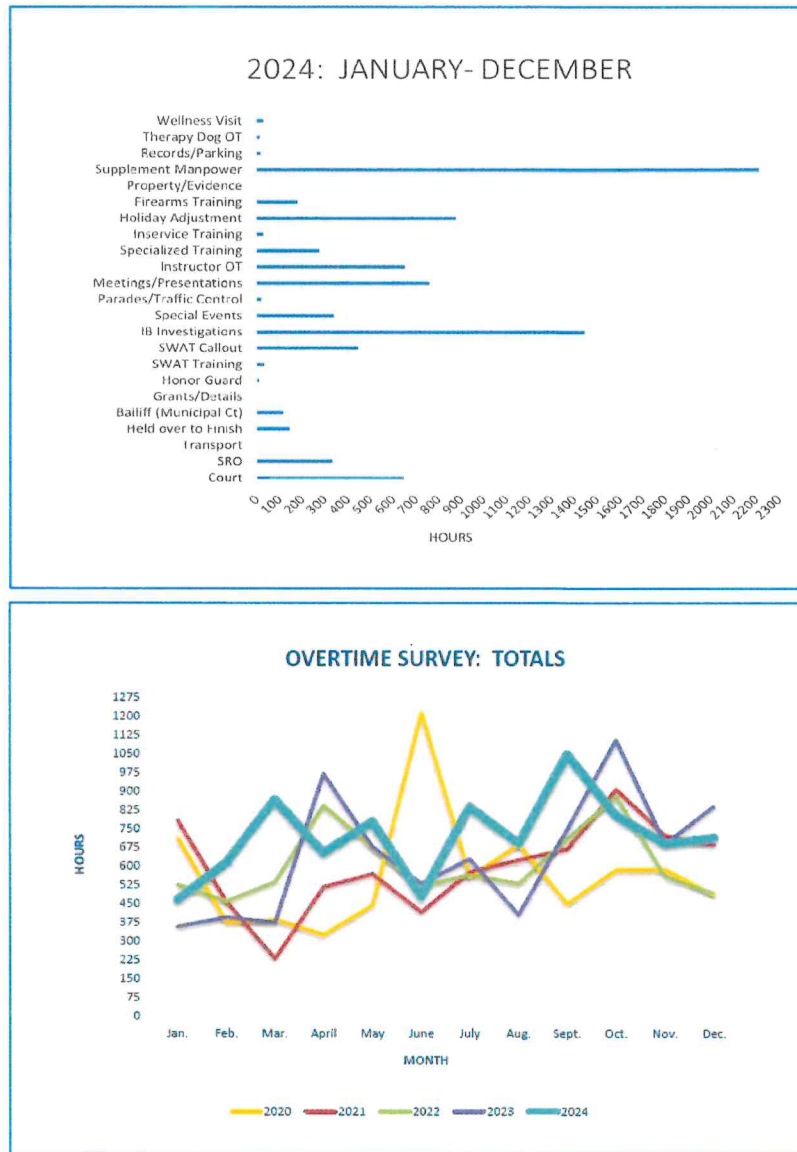
Safety Belts/Child Restraints	45
Speeding	409
Signal & Sign	142
OWI (All 346.63)	214
OAR/OAS	322
Underage Alcohol	204
Vehicle Registration	104
Vehicle Equipment	18
All Other	548
Total Citations	2545

In 2024, Patrol officers responded to almost 600 accidents in the city of Stevens Point. This is down 5.24% from 2023. (Data collected from TRACS)

**Stevens Point Police Department
Traffic Accident Summary Report
01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024**

Total Accidents	597
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2024 OVERTIME SYNOPSIS



This past year, the Stevens Point Police Department saw several retirements, as well as two officers who left for various reasons. As a result, staffing was reduced from the set number of 46 sworn officers. This decrease in officers was reflected in our overtime data, as the remaining officers worked diligently to cover vacancies. Despite these challenges, the department successfully trained and integrated eight new officers into the force over the course of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Assistant Chief Dana Williams
Operations Division*

TRAINING REPORT

The Stevens Point Police Department is committed to ensuring its officers receive high-quality training to effectively serve and protect the community. The department allocates approximately \$32,000 of its budget toward training throughout the year. This budget supports both sworn and non-sworn employees, enabling them to accumulate a total of 7,056.05 training hours during the 2023/2024 fiscal training year.

State law mandates that each officer completes a minimum of 24 hours of training each year, and SPPD officers consistently meet or exceed this requirement. Many officers participate in advanced training programs in areas such as SWAT, K9 operations, and other specialized fields. This ongoing training ensures that SPPD personnel are well-prepared to handle a wide range of situations, from leadership and supervisory courses to hands-on training for specialized units like the SWAT team.

By investing in continuous education and development, the Stevens Point Police Department prioritizes the safety of both its officers and the community they serve.

Training Focuses

In 2024, the department's training efforts were concentrated on enhancing officer readiness and safety through specialized programs. Key training initiatives included:

- **Bi-Annual Pursuit Training:** Conducted at Mid-State Technical College, this training was designed to refine officers' skills in high-speed pursuits, focusing on effective techniques and safety protocols.
- **Advanced Specialized Training:** Several officers attended training programs in various fields, such as SWAT, Firearms, Peer Support, Investigation disciplines, etc., thus improving the department's overall capability in these specialized areas.
- **Axon Taser 10 Implementation:** The department transitioned to a new electronic control device platform with improved technology and capabilities.

New Officer Hiring and Training

In 2024, SPPD hired eight new officers, and they all received comprehensive training to prepare them for the demanding nature of law enforcement. The training process for new recruits is as follows:

- **Field Training Program (FTO Program):** This program consists of five steps or phases to ensure new officers gain a full range of competencies in real-world policing scenarios.
 - **Step 0 / Onboarding:** This first phase consists of foundational training in firearms, emergency vehicle operations, and defensive tactics. Department instructors guide this hands-on training to build essential skills.
 - **Step 1-3 / Field Training with Officers:** In these phases, recruits work with three different Field Training Officers (FTO). The FTOs demonstrate the department's policing methods, while coaching the recruits in the process of applying these techniques in various situations.

- **Step 4 / Shadow Phase:** This phase involves the recruit working independently under evaluation without direct coaching. This stage is designed to assess the new officer's abilities and decision-making skills in real-world law enforcement scenarios.

This structured approach ensures that new officers are thoroughly prepared to meet the demands of the job with the highest standards of professionalism and safety.

Supervisory Training

With the city of Stevens Point being centrally located, SPPD hosts regional meetings, state meetings, and various training sessions in our newly renovated training facility. This year, the department was honored to host Wisconsin DOJ First Line Supervisor Training, which is a two-week interactive training. Three officers from SPPD attended and completed this training: Sgt. Beach, Sgt. Wierzba, and Lead Ofc. Solis.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lieutenant Benjamin Uitenbroek
Operations Division / Training Coordinator*

THE SPPD DRONE PROGRAM

In 2021, the Stevens Point Police Department launched its first-ever Drone Program, ushering in a new era of air support for public safety operations in the community. What started as a small initiative with just one drone has since evolved into a powerful fleet, providing invaluable assistance to law enforcement and enhancing public safety throughout Stevens Point and beyond.

From a Single Drone to a Growing Fleet

The SPPD Drone Program was founded under the leadership of Drone Pilot Det. Matt Drossel, who began the program with a single DJI Mini 2 drone. This initial step eventually grew as the team recognized the potential of drones in supporting critical police operations. Today, the program has a team of six FAA Part 107 certified drone pilots and a fleet of four advanced DJI drones.

FAA Part 107 certification is key in guaranteeing that all drone operators are fully qualified to fly safely and legally, and the team's training and certification have made them leaders in using drone technology for public safety. This expansion has allowed the team to perform a variety of vital operations across the city.

Supporting Public Safety with Drone Technology

The mission of the SPPD Drone Team is clear: provide air support for public safety operations in and around Stevens Point. Drones are not just a cutting-edge tool for law enforcement; they are an essential asset for ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. From search and rescue operations to tactical reconnaissance, the drones are deployed in a variety of ways to assist in emergencies and routine operations.

Some of the key uses for the SPPD drones include:

- **Search and Rescue:** Drones are instrumental in quickly covering large areas, helping locate missing persons or suspects, even in challenging weather conditions or low-light environments.
- **Tactical Reconnaissance:** The drones provide law enforcement with real-time aerial views during critical operations, allowing for better decision-making and enhanced safety for officers and the public.
- **Situational Awareness:** During high-profile community events or visits from dignitaries, drones offer real-time situational awareness, making certain that public safety teams can respond swiftly to any unfolding situation.
- **Community Event Overwatch:** Drones assist in crowd monitoring and ensuring that large events run smoothly, with a focus on public safety.

Real-World Impact in 2024

In 2024, the SPPD Drone Program played a crucial role in several operations. Here are a few notable deployments:

- **Area search for suspect:** A burglary in progress led officers to the east side of Stevens Point, where a drone was used to assist in searching for the suspect, providing critical aerial support during the operation.
- **Search and rescue operation:** In a challenging case involving a special needs woman lost in low light and inclement weather, drone use helped cover more ground, ultimately aiding in a successful rescue.
- **Dignitary visit:** Drones provided real-time situational awareness during a dignitary visit, ensuring that public safety teams could maintain optimal oversight of the event.
- **Public safety at community events:** Drones provided essential air support during large community events, monitoring crowds, and helping law enforcement keep a watchful eye on public safety.

SPPD Drone Pilots

Det. Matt Drossel (Emeritus)

Ofc. Melvin Plummer

L.O. Cole O'Neil

L.O. Cody Stankowski

Ofc. Samuel Hessel

SRO Chi Yang

Ofc. James Harper



Drone Fleet

DJI Matrice 30T

- Thermal Imagery capabilities
- Adverse weather flight capabilities



DJI Mini 3 Pro

- Tactical reconnaissance
- Real time situation awareness



DJI Avata 2

- Indoor/outdoor tactical reconnaissance
- First person view flight controls



DJI Mini 2

- Drone Trainer



Respectfully submitted,

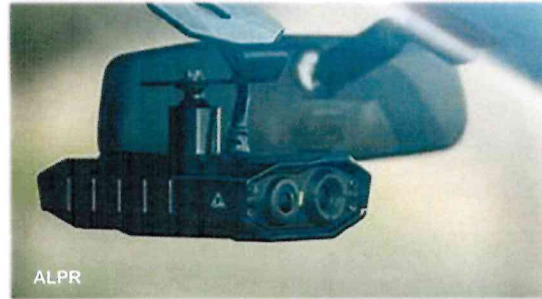
*Lieutenant Benjamin Uitenbroek
Operations Division*

TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS/UPGRADES IN 2024

Mobile Cellular Communications

In 2024, the Stevens Point Police Department transitioned to the FirstNet Public Safety Network, assuring that first responders have priority access to cellular networks, even during outages or periods of high demand. This upgrade enhances signal coverage and improves communication reliability. Smartphones were deployed in patrol vehicles to support advanced technological capabilities for evidence collection and communication. Additionally, cellular boosters were installed at key locations in the city to improve signal strength for public safety in priority areas. To further support connectivity in the field, ruggedized cradlepoint routers were installed in patrol vehicles, guaranteeing officers and equipment remain connected for a wide range of operational needs.

Body Cameras & Digital Evidence System



SPPD upgraded its legacy body camera system to the cutting-edge Axon/Evidence.com platform, which offers a comprehensive digital evidence ecosystem. This upgrade includes Fleet 3 squad cameras and Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology, which scans license plates to identify stolen or wanted vehicles. Officers also now use Axon Body 4 cameras, LTE-enabled for real-time situational awareness and improved communication during field operations.

De-Escalation Tool - Axon Taser 10

The department introduced the Axon Taser 10, a state-of-the-art electronic control device designed to enhance de-escalation efforts in high-risk situations. With an increased range and more deployment capacity, the T10 provides officers with a powerful tool to help de-escalate tense situations and reduce the need for higher levels of force, promoting safety for both officers and the community.



Respectfully submitted,

*Lieutenant Benjamin Uitenbroek
Operations Division*

HONOR GUARD

The Stevens Point Honor Guard has eight members on the team. Officers are trained specifically to honor fallen officers (past and in the line of duty), proper flag etiquette, and presentation of the colors. The Honor Guard had two ceremonies where we presented the colors to start a local training conference and for Wreaths Across America, which is to honor fallen military officers. We had one funeral that we assisted with casket guard for a former officer. We also lead the homecoming parade for SPASH.



Respectfully submitted,

*Assistant Chief Dana Williams
Operations Division*

STEVENS POINT AUXILIARY

The Stevens Point Police Department Auxiliary Unit (SPPD Aux) plays a vital role in supporting the Stevens Point Police Department and serving the local community. As an all-volunteer force, its members are dedicated to assisting with various aspects of law enforcement and community safety. These volunteers often include individuals who are passionate about law enforcement, some of whom may be pursuing careers in this field. This year two of our Auxiliary Officers, Clayton Madison-Dawson and Jarrett Lucht, were hired at SPPD as full-time officers.



Fred Strasser Andrew Hensel John Okonek Pete Jacoby Jessie Davidenko Carson Shurpitt



Larry Pingel Benjamin Tiffany Devon Kowalski Zachary Cook David Edwards

The mission of the SPPD Auxiliary is to support the SPPD in its operations and overall mission. This support manifests in several key areas:

1. **Public relations:** Helping to foster positive relationships between the police department and the community, assuring residents feel safe and informed.

2. **Traffic control:** Assisting with the management of traffic during events or incidents, ensuring smooth and safe movement for both vehicles and pedestrians.
3. **General security at events:** Providing security for various community events, such as parades, festivals, or public gatherings, to offer safety and order.

In all these ways, the SPPD Auxiliary enhances the effectiveness of the Stevens Point Police Department while contributing to the well-being and safety of the local community.

Volunteer Hours at Stevens Point PD Auxiliary 01-01-2024 to 12-31-2024:

Hour Log Activity	Hours
Events	721.5
Meetings	105.5
Misc.	31.5
Ride- Alongs	8
TOTALS	866.5

In 2024, the SPPD Aux Unit was able to purchase additional equipment. The equipment purchased included first aid bags and supplies, as well as uniform vest carriers for ballistic vests. All items were funded by generous community donations from the annual brat fry fundraiser.



Respectfully submitted,

*Lieutenant Benjamin Uitenbroek
Operations Division / SPPD Auxiliary Coordinator*

K9 UNIT

The Stevens Point Police Department K9 program consists of three teams: Dual-purpose K9 Barry with Sergeant Ballew, Dual-purpose K9 Coye with Officer Dienger, and Therapy K9 Willow with Officer Marchel.

In 2024, both dual-purpose K9 units deployed approximately 100 times. These deployments included traffic related drug sniffs, building searches for both drugs and people, tracking suspects, and assisting other agencies. Officer Marchel deployed K9 Willow 43 times in 2024. In addition, Sergeant Ballew and K9 Barry were honored to judge the K9 Olympics in Denver, Indiana, for the 2024 games.

K9 Coye and K9 Barry are credited in seizing 60g of methamphetamine, 20g of marijuana, 3g of fentanyl, and 3g of cocaine.

A few notable calls for 2024 include:

- Officer Dienger assisted the Portage County Sheriff's Office with a traffic stop in the 600 block of Main Street. Officer Dienger deployed K9 Coye for a free air sniff. At that time, K9 Coye had a positive alert to the vehicle and the contents were searched. During the search of the vehicle, 1.6g of methamphetamine was located in the center console. Also, 1.4g of methamphetamine was in the jacket packet of one of the passengers in the vehicle. Because of K9 Coye's positive alert, more methamphetamine was taken off the streets and three people were held responsible.
- Sergeant Ballew and K9 Barry assisted the Portage County Sheriff's Office with a standoff subject in the 400 block of Mill Street in Amherst, WI.
- Sergeant Ballew and K9 Barry were requested to assist the Portage County Sheriff's Office, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin Rapids Police Department, and Nekoosa Police Department with a high-speed chase that ended in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, during which the subject had discharged his firearm at officers. Sergeant Ballew and K9 Barry had set up to start tracking the subject, when the subject was then located on a rooftop, so Sergeant Ballew and K9 Barry became a perimeter team.
- Sergeant Ballew and K9 Barry assisted the Portage County Sheriff's Office with a high-speed chase that ended in the area of West Sesame Street and West Gates Drive in Stevens Point. The subject would not follow orders from Portage County deputies and refused to get out of the vehicle. Sergeant Ballew and K9 Barry arrived on scene and as soon as the subject heard K9 Barry barking, the subject complied without further issues.
- On September 11, 2024, Officer Marchel became aware that a Ben Franklin Junior High student had passed away unexpectedly. Officer Marchel deployed Therapy K9 Willow in the mental health recovery room. Therapy K9 Willow spent time with students and staff struggling to deal with the passing of the student. Therapy K9 Willow played a key role in getting students and staff to open up and talk to counselors.



The three K9 teams attended the required monthly training sessions to maintain and advance their level of readiness. K9 Coye and K9 Barry continued towards integration with the Stevens Point/Plover SWAT team.

The Stevens Point Police Department K9 Unit will continue to grow next year. Officer Dienger and K9 Coye, along with Sergeant Ballew and K9 Barry, will be attending the 2025 K9 Olympics as competitors. Both teams will also be attending the 2025 Wisconsin Canine Handler Association Working Dog conference. All handlers will continue their extensive training throughout the year to ensure their readiness as K9 teams.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sergeant Jeremiah Ballew
Certified K9 Trainer*

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The Stevens Point Police Department employs three School Resource Officers (SRO), assigned to Ben Franklin Junior High, PJ Jacobs Junior High, and SPASH High School. Beyond their primary duties at these schools, the SROs also extend support to local elementary and private schools when needed.

The primary role of the SROs is to maintain the safety and security of both students and staff throughout the district. They act as a crucial connection between law enforcement and the educational community, helping to build strong relationships and ensuring a sense of security. By being present in schools, SROs proactively address potential safety concerns, offer guidance, and contribute to fostering a secure learning environment for all students.



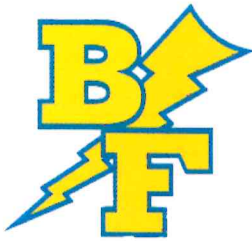
SPASH

SRO Joe Kramer has served nine years in his position at SPASH. In the capacity of SRO in 2024, Officer Kramer had 982 calls for service, 14 citations, 14 vaping investigations, 47 drug investigations, 20 truancy citations, and 17 juvenile referrals. SRO Kramer has worked with the school district to strengthen safety at school extracurricular events, and he has worked to improve school safety as part of the Rescue Task Force team.

PJ Jacobs

SRO Chi Yang has served one year in his position at PJ Jacobs JHS. In the capacity of SRO, Officer Yang had 1282 calls for service, 18 citations, 10 vaping/drug investigations, 17 truancy citations, 3 YES program referrals, and 3 juvenile referrals. In addition to SRO, Officer Yang is a drone pilot, negotiator, and peer support team member.





Ben Franklin

SRO Kris Marchel has served close to four years in his position at Ben Franklin JHS. In the capacity of SRO in 2024, Officer Marchel had 835 calls for service, 19 citations, 3 vaping investigations, 3 drug investigations, 2 underage alcohol investigations, 22 truancy citations, 9 YES referrals, and 2 juvenile referrals. In addition to SRO, Officer Marchel is a K9 handler for Therapy K9 Willow, negotiator, peer support team member, veteran liaison, and honor guard team member.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lieutenant Benjamin Uitenbroek
Operations Division*

USE OF FORCE REVIEW

During the course of 2024, SPPD officers documented 63 Use of Force incidents, which was a slight increase from 2023.

Officers used a compliance hold restraint 12 times and officers used passive countermeasures (type of decentralization or take-down) 14 times. Officers utilized active countermeasures during three Use of Force incidents in 2024 (type of strike). In one active countermeasure incident this year that involved focus strikes, two officers were injured. Officers did not use OC spray or baton this year.

The taser device was displayed 16 times and deployed 6 times. With the new implementation to the Taser 10 mid-spring, officers had the option for more probe deployment, which was necessary on three of the four deployments with the Taser 10. With the old tasers, officers had effective deployments on both incidents before they were replaced. With the new Taser 10 devices, officers had three out of four deployments be successful.

Less lethal gas deployment and distraction devices were utilized during one incident this year (see SWAT report for details). Officers also displayed the less lethal bean bag shotgun during two Use of Force incidents; however, no rounds were fired. Again, the same as last year, officers did not use the P.I.T. maneuver or road spikes during a high-speed chase.

Our K9 partners were used during several incidents in 2024. The K9 was used as a threat of force, indicated as a K9 display on four different occasions, and their presence was almost always effective in the resolution of those situations.

Officers drew their firearm during 34 of the 63 Use of Force incidents in 2024. No shots were fired by officers during any of the incidents. This number is quite a bit lower than years past; when officers drew their weapons on 64% of the Use of Force incidents in 2023 and 62% of the Use of Force incidents in 2022, as opposed to 54% in 2024.

There were two officers injured in 2024 during the same incident. A subject who was resisting arrest had been taken to the ground by officers. While on the ground, the subject pulled the hair of one officer and

punched that officer in the face multiple times, causing bruising and small cuts. The other officer received a hand injury after delivering several focus strikes to the subject to get them to stop injuring the first officer.

There were six subjects injured during the 63 Use of Force incidents in 2024. Five of those subjects were injured while being taken down by an officer or after falling from being tased. During the incident from which officers were injured (mentioned above), that subject also sustained injuries to their face. All injuries were minor, and none required medical attention.



In the summer of 2024, the Stevens Point Police Department purchased a restraint device called “The WRAP” from Safe Restraints, Inc. The concept of The WRAP was brought to light in the 90’s, when the topic of prone control, the risks associated with it, and positional asphyxiation in combative individuals were being discussed and the lack of options available. The idea behind The WRAP is to stop a conflict quickly and permanently, position the subject in a positive breathing position, and transition to de-escalation efforts and provide timely care. After the purchase of The WRAP, several officers became instructor-certified and trained a large majority of the staff at SPPD. Patrol immediately put The WRAP into use, and to date has been used approximately 12 times during incidents when the subject was physically combative with officers or threatened to be. The use of The WRAP has helped to mitigate prolonged fights between officers and subjects, greatly reduce the chances of injuries and property damage, and focuses on recovery and de-escalation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lieutenant Joseph Johnson
Administration Division*

SWAT REPORT

SWAT Deployments

The Stevens Point/Plover SWAT Team was deployed three times in 2024.

May 22, 2024 – Members of the Stevens Point/Plover SWAT team were used to execute back-to-back search warrants on residences in Stevens Point at 2817 Water Street and 500 Forest Street. Both locations were known to use or sell drugs, and most of the occupants had extensive criminal histories. Several people were believed to be at each residence and there was a high level of concern for safety, thus the need to use the SWAT team.

The first residence the SWAT team arrived at was 2817 Water Street. Several people were taken into custody at the residence, with three people getting arrested. Approximately 616.65 grams of

methamphetamine was located at this residence, along with THC, psilocybin mushrooms, and drug paraphernalia. Two people were checked out and cleared by paramedics (due to health issues). There was no damage to property and no reported injuries.

The second residence the SWAT team arrived at was 500 Forest Street. Nine people were taken into custody at this residence, with four arrests being made. Items associated with methamphetamine and THC were also located at this residence. Following the warrant, the residence itself was deemed uninhabitable by the Stevens Point Inspection Department. There were no injuries or damage at this location as well.

July 25, 2024 – Members of the Stevens Point/Plover SWAT Team were called in to assist Portage County Special Response Team (SRT) with the apprehension of a wanted fugitive, who was believed to be hiding out at a residence at 450 Mill Street in Amherst, WI. The wanted fugitive, Jeffrey Miller, had attempted to shoot and kill a police officer in Sauk County a few days prior. The Marathon County SWAT Team was also requested to assist.

At approximately 7:00 p.m., all three SWAT teams arrived on site at the same time. Four subjects were taken into custody; however, the wanted suspect fled into the residence and refused to come out. As the teams prepared to deploy less lethal gas rounds into the residence, the suspect began to fire rounds at the armored vehicles surrounding the house. The SWAT teams could not see the suspect and it appeared the rounds were being shot from the attic. Less lethal gas rounds were deployed into the residence by all three teams at this time. The suspect continued to shoot at officers for approximately an hour behind concealment and never came out, despite the constant instructions over the loudspeaker to do so. No one was injured when the suspect was shooting out of the residence. For the next several hours, teams attempted tactical destruction, along with commands, gas deployment, and the use of drones to clear areas of the residence.



At approximately 3:00 a.m., several other area SWAT teams arrived to relieve PTSO, SPPD/PPD, and MNSO. Those teams were asked to maintain a perimeter and to not act unless necessary, until they were relieved around 12:00 pm on 07/26/24. At 12:00 p.m., PTSO, SPPD/PPD, and MNSO arrived back on scene and formulated a plan. No contact had been made with the suspect and no new observations had been made by the perimeter teams. After more attempts to contact the suspect and another deployment of gas, a team was formulated to clear the residence. Team members clearing the residence located the suspect in the attic, deceased, with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The scene was turned over to the Department of Criminal investigations and all SWAT teams cleared.

December 12, 2024 – The Stevens Point/Plover SWAT Team was requested to execute a warrant at 1903A Water Street in Stevens Point. The residence was a location known to officers to sell and use drugs. It was also suspected Dean Best resided at this residence and had several warrants for his arrest. Best had an extensive criminal history and had been known to be in possession of a firearm, on more than one occasion, during police contacts. Best was also known to flee or resist arrest if given the opportunity.

The team arrived at the residence at approximately 6:45 a.m. and executed the warrant without incident. Two people were taken into custody: one being arrested and jailed. Best was not located at the

residence and was arrested a week later by detectives and patrol officers. Items associated with selling and using drugs were located inside the residence. No reported damage or injuries during the incident.

Training

Monthly training sessions were completed as scheduled, with a two-day training course in February covering all critical skills that operators should know. SPPD/PPD SWAT trained jointly with PTSO SRT in October over two days at the Vortex Headquarters in Barneveld, WI. The team has continued to work on the concepts learned.

Team member Cody Stankowski was certified in 2024 as a basic SWAT member and a drone operator. Several new drones were purchased by SPPD in 2024 and have become an integral part in SWAT operations. Team member Tanner Lepinski became a less lethal certified instructor in 2024 to join two other instructors on the team. SWAT snipers completed their quarterly training throughout the year as well, adding Sgt. Faber to the Sniper Team in July.

Personnel Changes

Stevens Point Officer Jason Dienger and Plover Officer Joe Clark were added to the SWAT Team in June of 2024, following a successful tryout. Officer Dienger replaced Sgt. Austin Lee, who resigned from SPPD and moved on to Pleasant Prairie PD. Officer Clark replaced former PPD Officer Brian Noll's position on the team.

Equipment

The Stevens Point members were all outfitted with new 5.11 VXI TXU tactical pants at the end of 2024, and the department also purchased several new drones. These drones are to be used by all facets of SPPD, but are worth mentioning under the SWAT new equipment section as they are utilized by the team so frequently. The team will look to purchase new helmets in 2025 as they approach expiration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lieutenant Joseph Johnson
SWAT Commander



◆ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES REPORT 2024◆

The Administrative Division has continued to explore innovative ways to address emerging trends and evolving quality of life concerns within our community, while focusing on efficient use of current resources.

The Administrative Division oversees the Investigation Bureau, Property and Evidence, Records Bureau, Parking Enforcement, Chaplains, Crossing Guards, Public Information Officer (PIO), and Community Outreach programs. With an increase in more specialized assignments to address emerging trends, each unit has seen an expansion of assigned tasks. Supervisors, along with their work groups, have performed well to meet this challenge.

Investigation Bureau

The Investigation Bureau is comprised of seven detectives, each specializing in an area of expertise. In late December 2023, Detective Yenter resigned from the police department to pursue a different career. This vacancy was filled by Officer Brian Brooks in July 2024.

Investigation Bureau staff include:

- Det. Lieutenant Jeremy Mueller (IB Supervisor)
- Det. Sergeant John Lawrynk (Supervisor)
- Det. Matthew Drossel (General Crimes)
- Det. Kent Lepak (Property and Financial Crimes)
- Det. Brian Brooks (General Crimes/Sensitive Crimes)
- Det. Stormy Poeschel (Sensitive Crimes)
- Drug Detectives

Parking Enforcement

In 2020, the city of Stevens Point developed a work group to address parking needs within the city. The work group is comprised of the Stevens Point Police Department, Community Development, and the Public Works Department. In 2022, Lt. Johnson took over as the Administrative Lieutenant when Lt. Williams was moved to Investigation Bureau Supervisor.

Lt. Johnson has had some major accomplishments in 2024. Our full-time Community Service Officer (CSO) completed his second full year. Our full-time CSO has proven to fulfill our need of consistent enforcement throughout the year, as well as being available for other shortfalls in the crossing guard program. Lt. Johnson has tasked our CSO with creating a Field Training manual for this position, which will help with future hires.

Lt. Johnson saw a need for more long-term parking throughout the year. He added 48 new long-term parking spaces in Lot 2. Lt. Johnson also completed research on our current kiosk system around campus and downtown, and determined they were not cost effective to keep in operation. In 2024, all physical kiosks were removed and replaced

Park. Pay.
Be on your way.*

No more digging for coins. Download today.

with two virtual kiosks and a “call to pay to park” option. This option was implemented well in advance of the college resuming classes and the transition went smoothly and saved the city thousands of dollars.

Crisis Intervention

In 2024, officers responded to 1,400 welfare checks, which is down from 1,611 in 2023. Crisis Intervention Officer (CIO) Radsek completed his sixth year in the position. Officer Radsek was able to build upon his relationships with mentally ill/homeless people in his specialized role as CIO. Officer Radsek supported Patrol with welfare checks, emergency detentions, and transports. He also continued to be a liaison/SPPD representative in numerous Portage County Health and Human Services (PCHHS) meetings involving crisis, suicide prevention, and domestic violence prevention. This continued relationship with PCHHS has reduced the number of calls for service directed towards Patrol and has helped solidify the smooth flow of information between both agencies. In 2024, Officer Radsek was a recipient of the “Relentless Badger” award from Midwest Independent Living Choices. This award was a result of Officer Radsek’s tireless work to find housing for a homeless, elderly community member. Officer Radsek will receive the award in February of 2025.

Officers processed 35 emergency detentions (Chapter 51) in 2024. Officers assisted Stevens Point citizens 69 times for voluntary mental health commitments and handled 2 alcohol commitments. Officers also responded to 5 suicides.

Records Bureau

In 2024, SPPD continued to work with the Carfax team to provide free accident reports to the public via crashdocs.org. This relationship is a benefit for SPPD as well as the citizens of Stevens Point. The Records staff has saved time and paper in this process and citizens are able to obtain a free accident report.

Records staff processed over 400 Requests for Charges and 69 Juvenile Referrals for the District Attorney’s Office. Over 1,500 records requests were processed in 2024.

The Stevens Point Police Department Records Bureau is staffed by Records Bureau Supervisor Candy Tork, Lead Records Specialist Rebecca Long, Records Specialist Stephanie Molski, and Records Specialist Nicole VanHulle. This past year has had challenges with hiring and with an increase in open records requests; however, the Records staff handled these challenges with professionalism and integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

*Assistant Chief Michael Rottier
Administration Division*



INVESTIGATION BUREAU

Equipment

The Investigation Bureau will make purchases throughout the year from its own budget depending on the needs of the investigators and/or cases. In 2024, the Stevens Point Police Department Investigation Bureau continued to purchase drug tests that are used daily and added a money counter to assist with investigations.

- **Carnation Money Counter:** As a department and as members of the Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force, we saw the added benefit of obtaining a money counting/scanning machine. We often deal with large quantities of money, either recovered from scams/frauds, large drug deals, or search warrants. The Carnation money counter allows detectives and officers to quickly and accurately count money and identify counterfeit bills. When the counter is connected to a computer, the software will record serial numbers, which can then be compared throughout the system within the state of Wisconsin.
- **Drug Tests:** Drugs continue to be an active problem in our community, and as officers and detectives investigate and make arrests, those drugs need to be tested to pursue the appropriate criminal charges. These drug tests are used daily, and an investigation often takes more than one test. As drugs become more sophisticated, so do the tests, and the price continues to climb.



Reported Cases

In 2024, the Investigation Bureau collectively worked over 325 cases, with most of the cases coming from the Patrol division as referrals for continued investigation/follow up. Portage County Health and Human Services (PCHHS) reports also produced a large number of the Investigation Bureau's caseload in 2024. The majority of the drug related investigations were again generated and initiated by the department's drug detectives, who are active in identifying drug users/dealers and building criminal cases against them. (See 2024 Drug Investigation Unit Report.)

The Investigation Bureau was active in assisting outside agencies and/or requesting assistance from other law enforcement agencies in 2024. A list of the many jurisdictions the Stevens Point Investigation Bureau worked with in 2024 included: UW-Stevens Point PD, Portage Co., Wood Co., Wisconsin Rapids PD, Marshfield PD, Mosinee PD, Waupaca PD, Shawano Co., Outagamie Co., and many more. Likewise, Stevens Point detectives utilized the services of other government agencies, including the Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Wisconsin Crime Lab, Department of Homeland Security, Wisconsin State Fire Marshals, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Activity, and more.

The Investigation Bureau wrote and executed around 70 search warrants/subpoenas in 2024. Most of these documents were centered on residential homes and cell phones, with the rest of them being accounted for as social media accounts, DNA, email accounts, and bank records. The Investigation

Bureau also continued to exercise our authority granted by the State of Wisconsin under Act 79. Wisconsin Act 79 allows the search of a person, a person's residence, or any property under a person's control if that individual is suspected of committing or planning to commit a crime and are on supervision of Probation and Parole for felonies they committed under Chapter 940, 948, and 961 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. This Act will continue to be a focus of the Stevens Point Investigation Bureau's efforts moving forward in 2025.

Sensitive Crimes

The Stevens Point Police Department Investigation Bureau only had one dedicated investigator to work Sensitive Crimes in the past, but as of August 2024, a second position was added as another dedicated Sensitive Crimes Investigator. All of our detectives are trained to investigate these types of cases and are occasionally assigned to them as well, but with the growing number of complaints needing investigation, a second position was needed. The majority of our sensitive crime cases are referrals from the Patrol division and from Portage County Health and Human Services (PCHHS). Sensitive Crimes include sexual assaults, homicides, attempted homicides, and suicides. Detectives also assist PCHHS Investigators with cases such as suspected child abuse and/or neglect, unfit living conditions, and crimes against the elderly. These investigators are also assigned as the Liaison for the Wisconsin Department of Justice's ICAC (Internet Crimes against Children) Task Force.

Our Sensitive Crimes Investigators worked over 90 total cases in 2024, which included 37 sexual assaults (child and adult), 55 Child Protective Services (CPS) cases, and 11 Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) cases. These numbers do not include the cases that CPS screens out but still may warrant a law enforcement investigation. Most of the CPS cases were worked in conjunction with the PCHHS Child Protective Services department. While many of these cases resulted in arrests or referrals, cases were also resolved by offering services, advice, and/or in collaboration with Portage County Health and Human Services.



Frauds/Scams

The continued effort of criminals to create elaborate scams to defraud citizens of their money continues to grow in our community. In 2024 our department received over 165 reported frauds. The majority of these reports were of citizens being scammed out of money, whether it was an email scam, a computer virus scam, an online shopping account scam, or a bank account deposit scam. The types of scams being reported as the base for criminal fraud continue to grow. There was also a large influx of checks being stolen out of a mailbox and being forged. As in 2023, not all of these amount to an investigation by our Detectives but most at least get reviewed. Many of the scams are conducted via telephone or online and typically come from a foreign country, which makes the cases very difficult to solve and even when they are solved prosecution does not exist for those in foreign countries.

Det. Kent Lepak has been petitioning State Legislators in hopes of them drafting a law where some regulations can be put on Crypto Currency companies and or the machines utilized in the fraudulent/scam transactions.

Death Investigations

In 2024, investigators conducted eight death investigations. Of those, two were drug related overdoses (see 2024 Drug Investigation Unit Report). The remaining six investigations included two reckless homicides, two accidental deaths, and two suicides. The two reckless homicides were major cases at the beginning of 2024 and still have portions open in court (see 2024 Major Case section). Death investigations (scenes/cases) are difficult to deal with, both physically and mentally, for all involved. The far-reaching effects of these cases, especially suicides, take their toll on everyone involved.

2024 Major Case Investigations

- **January 2024 Child Abuse** – Patrol officers were called to Aspirus Hospital in Stevens Point for a report of possible child abuse to a six-month-old baby. The Aspirus staff reported to officers that the child was brought in for having a seizure, and upon examination it was determined the child had a brain bleed, which may have been caused by abuse. Detectives were called in due to the nature of the incident. During this two-month long investigation, the parents were questioned and eventually sought out an attorney. The case was documented and sent to the Portage County District Attorney's Office for review.
- **January 2024 Burglary @ Campus Cycle** – Patrol officers responded to a burglary complaint at Campus Cycle on Fourth Avenue, where three E-bikes had been stolen, with a value of \$2,599.99. A subject was located in the area the following day and he had items within his property that were similar to the other items that were sold at Campus Cycle, to include the same brand of E-bike. The male subject was arrested for unrelated bail-jumping charges. During the four-month long investigation, several search warrants were obtained. Numerous local businesses in the area assisted with video surveillance, which showed the male subject riding more than one of the stolen bikes. Two of the E-bikes were recovered and returned to Campus Cycle. The male suspect was charged and sentenced to state prison. SPPD received assistance from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Police, UW-Credit Union, Stevens Point Fire Department, and the Blue Top Motel during this investigation.
- **February 2024 Disturbance/Suspicious (Internet Crimes Against Children)** – Patrol officers responded to a disturbance, and upon further investigation learned that the argument stemmed from a male/female relationship in which the female located possible child pornography on her boyfriend's electronic devices. Detectives responded to assist in the investigation. The lengthy investigation led to the discovery of hundreds of possible victims and the case was turned over to the FBI.
- **March 2024 Vehicle vs. Pedestrian / Hit and Run Fatality** – Patrol officers responded to the 2800 block of West River Drive for a report of a male who was found lying in the ditch, down the steep embankment. Citizens, officers, and paramedics attempted life saving measures on the male, later identified as Herbert Wievel, and he was transported to Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Based on the injuries, the incident was investigated as a hit and run / vehicle vs. pedestrian. Detectives were called in shortly after Mr. Wievel was taken to the hospital. Evidence was collected from the scene, measurements were taken based on where evidence was located, and Flock cameras were checked for recent vehicles with possible damage. Detectives spoke with family and neighbors to learn more about Mr. Wievel's daily routine, which included walks along West River Drive. Mr. Wievel later succumbed to his injuries and passed away. A press release was sent out regarding the incident and asking for community assistance and/or tips. The following day a tip was received regarding a Safelite employee who had reported "hitting"

something while in Stevens Point. The tip also stated that employee worked out of the Wisconsin Rapids Safelite location. Detectives took this information and were able to locate the damaged Safelite vehicle and driver, Kenneth Butler, who was arrested and booked in the Portage County Jail. He was later convicted of Hit and Run-Involve Death and Homicide by Negligent Operation of a Vehicle. The Stevens Point Police Department received assistance from Wisconsin Rapids Police Department and Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory during this investigation.

- **March 2024 Drug Investigation** – Drug detectives had received several tips regarding short term vehicle traffic at a local Stevens Point residence. The suspect residing at this residence was part of previous drug investigations/convictions. During the investigation, probable cause was gathered, and a warrant was approved and signed by a judge. The search warrant was executed, and the residence and vehicles were searched. Detectives located very large amounts of methamphetamine, which lead to charges being filed against the suspect.
- **March 2024 Disturbance/Fight/Fatality** – Patrol officers responded to a report of a male who had been beaten badly and was laying in the parking lot of Cobblestone Hotel. The male was transported to Aspirus Hospital in Stevens Point and was later flown to Aspirus Hospital in Wausau. Due to the severity of the male's injuries, detectives were called in to take over the investigation. Three suspects were identified through surveillance videos of local downtown businesses and city of Stevens Point cameras. The male victim later succumbed to his injuries and passed away. During the weeklong investigation, several search warrants were executed in both Stevens Point and Wausau. All three suspects were taken into custody and booked into jail. The Stevens Point Police Department received assistance from the Marathon County Sheriff's Office, Wausau Police Department, and Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory during this investigation.
- **April 2024 Fire/Arson** – Patrol officers responded to a report of an active fire in the 1600 block of Main Street. The caller was at home when the incident occurred, and he identified the suspect as one of his roommates. Officers later located the suspect downtown, and he was taken into custody. Detectives were called in to assist the Stevens Point Fire Department Investigators with the investigation as it was suspected that the fire was set intentionally. Through the monthlong investigation, several search warrants were executed. The evidence obtained from the investigation led to charges being filed against the suspect. The Stevens Point Police Department received assistance from the Stevens Point Fire Department, Wisconsin State Fire Marshals, Department of Criminal Investigations, and Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory during this investigation.
- **September 2024 Suspicious/Disturbance** – Patrol officers responded to a possible gunshot victim who was walking on the side of the road. The male subject was located and stated he had been brought to Stevens Point to a party at an unknown location where he was attacked. Due to the male's injuries and complexities of the incident, detectives were called in to investigate. This case is still under investigation.
- **September 2024 Property Crime/Robbery** – Patrol officers responded to a report of an unknown male inside a female's residence. The male had fled on foot and the female reported hearing a gunshot as he ran out the back door. An extensive search ensued for the male who was identified by the female, and he was later arrested. This case is still under investigation.



Property and Evidence

In 2024, the Stevens Point Police Department property inventoried approximately 1,695 items. Of that total, 1,479 items were taken as evidence during investigations, traffic stops, warrants, etc. Eighty-five of those items were given to SPPD or collected as found property and 55 items were inventoried as safe-keeping items. There are various reasons why items are property inventoried at SPPD; most items stay at the department within the Evidence Storage room, while some items are taken to one of the nearby Crime Labs if further analysis is needed. The department was able to release/destroy around 980 items over the past year.

SPPD again saw a fair number of firearms used in crimes in 2024. As a department, 30 firearms were property inventoried. In years past, investigators have run the following number of traces on guns:

- 2018 = 5 firearms
- 2019 = 19 firearms
- 2020 = 8 firearms
- 2021 = 15 firearms
- 2022 = 12 firearms
- 2023 = 46 firearms
- 2024 = 30 firearms

Drug Take Back Program



SPPD continued to participate in the Department of Justice Drug Take Back Program in 2024. The department provides a receptacle in the lobby where unwanted, expired, and unused prescription medications can be dropped off by citizens and safely disposed. The program has two off-site “Drug Take Back” events located at the Lincoln Center throughout the year. Through both “Drug Take Back” events of 2024, the department turned over 630.8 pounds of unwanted, expired, and unused prescription medications. This was an increase of 180 pounds over the previous year. The program continues to be a success and will continue in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

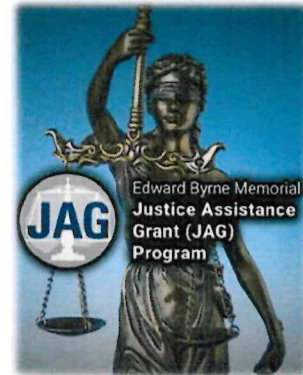
*Lieutenant Jeremy Mueller
Investigation Bureau Supervisor*

DRUG INVESTIGATION UNIT

2024 was a very active year for the Stevens Point Police Department Drug Unit.

The department took on the responsibility for administering the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for the Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force. This grant covers the overtime hours

associated with investigating drug crimes. The department is responsible for obtaining all participating departments' overtime hours for each quarter and then reporting those numbers to the grant for reimbursement. The city of Stevens Point then sends out checks to the member agencies for their reimbursement. The money comes from both the state of Wisconsin and the Federal government, and the grant is administered by the State of Wisconsin, Office of Justice Assistance. This is a big added time requirement for SPPD investigators. The Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force consists of the following 15 agencies in Central Wisconsin: Stevens Point Police Department, Plover Police Department, Marshfield Police Department, Wisconsin Rapids Police Department, Berlin Police Department, Grand Rapids Police Department, Waupaca Police Department, Waupaca County Sheriff's Office, Portage County Sheriff's Office, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Adams County Sheriff's Office, Juneau County Sheriff's Office, Waushara County Sheriff's Office, Green Lake County Sheriff's Office, and Marquette County Sheriff's Office. Detectives assist other agencies within the task force with conducting drug investigations, such as controlled buys of illicit drugs, executing search warrants, conducting surveillance, and many other investigative techniques. Stevens Point detectives assisted these other agencies with approximately 50 drug investigations this year.



Drug detectives continued to work closely with the drug task force directly to the north, which is called The Central Wisconsin Narcotics Task Force. This task force is led by an FBI agent and is made up of multiple departments. We regularly assist each other with sharing information and helping with investigations when they overlap jurisdictions, which is common in the drug trade.

The Stevens Point Police Department investigated two fatal confirmed drug overdoses and several non-fatal drug overdoses. One of the fatal overdoses was a mixed drug toxicity involving fentanyl, methamphetamine, and xylazine, and the other fatal overdose involved methamphetamine. Detectives were unable to determine the source(s) of the drugs, and no arrests were made. In the 2023 report, we were still waiting for the toxicology reports from three possible overdose deaths. One of them was not an overdose, but the other two were in fact drug overdoses. One was listed as an amphetamine overdose, which detectives suspect was from the deceased female's prescription Adderall. The other was a fentanyl overdose. Overdose deaths were down in 2024 from the previous year, but still very much a concern for the community.

Detectives executed 13 search warrants on residences where drugs were being sold and distributed, and they executed four GPS warrants for vehicles. Detectives initiated over 100 drug investigations. Drugs seized in 2024 include: 13.35 grams of fentanyl, 7.3 grams of heroin, 911.1 grams of methamphetamine, 2657 grams of marijuana, 111 marijuana plants, 50 THC vape cartridges, 32 grams of cocaine, 16 grams of crack cocaine, 7.49 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, 27 Adderall pills, 20 Alprazolam pills, 1 Clonazepam pill, 10 Lorazepam pills, and 23 Suboxone strips. All drug seizures were up from 2023, except for fentanyl, as in 2023 there was a seizure of a large number of fake prescription pills that contained fentanyl.

During one incident, drug detectives followed up on some information that was initiated from a domestic violence investigation in Stevens Point. The information led to Wisconsin Rapids where SPPD drug detectives, along with a Wisconsin Rapids detective and Portage County detective, conducted a

knock-and-talk investigation and ended up seizing approximately 1 kilo of cocaine, 13.6 pounds of marijuana bud/flower, 461 THC cartridges/vapes, 5 ounces of THC wax, 3 guns, and \$50,000.00 in cash.

Drug detectives continue to assist Portage County Health and Human Services (PCHHS) with child protective services cases. It is not uncommon for reports to come into PCHHS about moms and dads using and/or selling drugs with children present in the home. While working with PCHHS during investigations, parents are offered assistance and services to ensure the children are in a safe environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Stevens Point Drug Investigators

ADMINISTRATIVE LIEUTENANT REPORT

The Administrative Lieutenant oversees the Court Officer, Crisis Intervention Officer, Community Services Officers, Adult Crossing Guards, School Cadets, chaplain program, the city parking program, and community engagement programs. This position is also responsible for recruitment and is the Public Information Officer for the entire department.

Community Service Officers and Parking Enforcement

The Community Service Officer's (CSO) main responsibility is parking enforcement in the city. CSOs have other duties in addition to the enforcement, such as collect, inventory, and process abandoned bicycles. If an owner is identified, the bicycle will be returned to them. If an owner is not identified, bikes are donated to charitable organizations: Nicaragua Partners, Justice Works, Hmong Alliance, and Working Bikes. In total, 84 bicycles were donated in 2024. CSOs also perform fingerprinting duty for community members that need prints for employment or other reasons.



The department has one full-time CSO, Andrew Hensel, and he completed his second full year in this position. He continues to learn this position and is constantly trying to add to his workload. Andrew also assisted Patrol on a more regular basis with traffic control at accidents, fire scenes, and handled most (if not all) abandoned vehicles.

In September 2024, there was one personnel change in the CSO Office. SPPD welcomed part-time nightshift CSO, Devon Kowalski, after the position opened following a resignation. Devon has done well, increasing alternate-side parking violation enforcement consistently throughout areas of the city.

In 2024, approximately 6,181 parking citations were issued. This is an 11% increase from 2023. Approximately 3,847 of those citations were alternate-side parking or overnight/downtown parking violations. The most common daytime parking violation was meter violations, with 1,261 violations cited.

In August 2024, the decision was made to remove the parking kiosks from the area of UWSP and downtown, approximately 15 total kiosks. The kiosks were costing significantly more money than any

revenue they were bringing in. These kiosks were auctioned off and were replaced with two virtual kiosks and a “call to pay to park” option. This option to call was created to have a secondary option for those people who need to pay to park, but do not have a smartphone to use the Passport app or don’t wish to set it up. The Passport app is still the primary way to pay and has been extremely successful and easy to use. This transition also required all signage to be replaced by the Stevens Point Streets Department and the ordinances needed to be adjusted. This change went smoothly and was in place within the first week of UWSP going into session. This will save the city thousands of dollars each year.

In 2024, we again dealt with a shortage of long-term parking passes due to an overflow from UWSP students. Most of the department’s long-term permits have been sold out since the beginning of the school year. Many discussions were held about ways to improve parking and availability, with some changes coming soon.

Emergency Services Chaplain Program

The chaplain program had five clergy to start 2024; however, two members did retire during the year. Pastor Leah Woehr-Grande stepped down after five years with the chaplain program, and Pastor David Ficken stepped down from his position after 17 years of volunteer service. Pastor Ficken was the head of our chaplain program. He would meet with new officers after hiring, would make the chaplain schedule for the year, and was always popping in to check on officers and staff at SPPD. Pastor Ficken and Pastor Woehr-Grande will be greatly missed. The department did bring on Pastor Brian Vetter from the Greater Point Baptist Church and Pastor Matt Olson from the Good Shephard Lutheran Church. Pastor Brian Vetter took over Pastor Ficken’s role for the program and has done well. The program currently has five chaplains.



Chaplains provide spiritual support to all Portage County Emergency Services, to include Law Enforcement, EMS and Fire. Their services may be called upon for a member of the community who experienced a traumatic incident. They are also utilized by department personnel who may have been involved in a traumatic incident or to assist in a death notification. Chaplains are available 24/7 and are on a rotation so that someone should always be available. Chaplains also participate in ride-alongs with officers to get a different perspective of the stressors that officers face daily.

Adult Crossing Guards and School Safety Cadets

The department started the school year with six adult crossing guards, three of which have 20+ years of experience in these positions (Mari Boris, Agnes Kowalski, and Dave Wochinski). Unfortunately, two crossing guards did resign from their positions (Jason Worzalla and Rhea McCoy), so there are currently four active adult crossing guards, with the hiring process ongoing. Cara Nitka is a newer crossing guard and has been doing very well at her Michigan Street intersection.

SPPD crossing guards are committed to the safety of the children to get them across busy streets and get them to school. Crossing guards are at their assigned intersection every day there is school at the elementary level, even during inclement weather days. Their dedication and commitment are admirable.



The school safety cadets are 4th - 6th graders who volunteer at their school to assist with getting fellow students safely to school. Some of their duties include crossing the street, bus loading, and other additional duties in and around the school. The cadets are in all six of the elementary schools in Stevens Point: Madison, McKinley, Bannach, Jefferson, St. Paul, and Washington. All cadet programs are offered pizza parties at one point throughout the school year, hosted by SPPD. The annual Safety Cadet Conference in Wisconsin Dells is held every May, which allows the top 12 cadets from each school (chosen by their advisors and teachers) to attend the event during a school day. Each cadet is given a T-shirt, purchased by several donors from around Stevens Point, and treated to lunch and snacks throughout the day. The cadets also participate in miniature golfing, take a scenic boat tour, and enjoy other attractions in Wisconsin Dells. For the second year, SPPD will also host Winter Party at the YMCA. This is a party for all cadets in Portage County to attend. The building is reserved for two hours and cadets enjoy many of the services that the YMCA has to offer.

Court Officer and Crisis Intervention Officer

The Administrative Lieutenant oversees both the Court Officer and Crisis Intervention Officer.

The Court Officer is the liaison between the court system and Stevens Point Police Department. The Court Officer also oversees all fleet maintenance and is a leader/trainer for Citizen's Academy.

The Crisis Intervention Officer works as a liaison between patrol officers and those in the community who are homeless and/or have mental health issues. The Crisis Intervention Officer works with many different programs and service providers to assist community members in need. This position was created in 2017 and has proven to be very integral for the department and the community.

Community Engagement

The Administrative Lieutenant, along with the Crisis Intervention Officer, represents the Stevens Point Police Department on numerous community boards and organizations, including the Healthy Aging and Disability Coalition, the Child Safety Center, Portage County Crime Stoppers, TRIAD, and other local organizations. Involvement with these groups allows for an exchange of information between the department and the different organizations. The Administrative Lieutenant also spends a lot of time at local events and fundraisers, at a request from anyone in Stevens Point who wishes to have the lieutenant present at their event. Some events the Administrative Lieutenant spent time at in 2024 included the Police Lights of Christmas fundraisers, Cop on a Rooftop, Family Night at the Children's

Discovery Center, Slips, Trips, and Falls Prevention and Screening Events, and the Stevens Point Police Department's first ever National Night Out.

The National Night Out event was planned and organized by the Administrative Lieutenant with assistance from the Stevens Point Housing Authority. The free event was held on August 6th (1st Tuesday in August is the date across the nation for the event), in the green space behind Madison School. The idea behind National Night Out is not a new one and has been around since 1984. The goal is for local law enforcement to foster better relationships with residents within their communities. It provides an opportunity to bring police and citizens together under positive circumstances during a free, fun event. This event had music, food, drinks, and several sources of entertainment provided by local city and county resources for all to enjoy. SPPD partnered with Gamber Johnson and the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters baseball team for the event, handing out free tickets to the game that night and providing a free source of transportation for those that needed it. The event was extremely successful and the second National Night Out event is being planned for August 5th at Seramur Park in Stevens Point.



Presentations

The Run, Hide, Fight presentation continues to be a popular request amongst several businesses throughout Stevens Point. In 2024, multiple presentations were given to groups ranging from 5-120 people. Usually associated with these presentations is a walk-through of the building for which the group resides. During which participants are offered security advice and information is relayed back to Patrol that could be useful during calls. This topic will continue to be popular as building security issues and active shooter incidents have become all too prevalent around the country. Other topics presented in 2024 included de-escalation, personal safety, avoiding scams and identity theft, and having a safe working environment. The Administrative Lieutenant conducted just over 20 different presentations in 2024.

Recruitment

The Stevens Point Police Department continues to focus on recruitment of new officers. This is largely due to the challenges of getting qualified applicants to apply for the Stevens Point Police Department. Nationwide there has been a shortage of new police officers completing school and looking for employment in the field. The Administrative Lieutenant is responsible for recruitment and spent time attending career fairs at locations such as UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, SPASH, Pacelli, Ben Franklin

Junior High, and the Boys and Girls Club. While at these events, information about the department and the city was shared to people looking to join the law enforcement profession, and to young adults who are exploring their workforce/career options. Several visits to local technical college police academies were completed in 2024 as well, sharing information about what makes the Stevens Point Police Department a great place to work.



Respectfully submitted,

*Lieutenant Joseph Johnson
Administration Division*

CRISIS INTERVENTION REPORT

The Crisis Intervention Officer (CIO) position continues to assist people in need of mental health support, assist Patrol with welfare checks, and assist the department with emergency detention (Chapter 51) cases. As Crisis Intervention Officer, I work with people in need of many services in the community and work with a wide range of community outreach programs to include: The Walk for Hope for Suicide Prevention, local brat frys to raise money for the local mental health drop-in facility, and the bi-annual Point in Turn. Point in Turn is a collaborative effort with the Salvation Army to locate and house unhoused individuals. In 2024, the most challenging aspect of this position was trying to assist, and ultimately place, the growing unhoused community in Stevens Point.

The CIO also coordinates the Project Lifesaver program, whose moto is "Protecting the wandering and bring peace of mind to families, caregivers, and community." The CIO role is to conduct monthly battery changes on clients, update the website, and promote the program to individuals who could benefit from it. There are currently seven people enrolled in this program.



In December 2024, I was notified that I would be the recipient of the "Relentless Badger" award from Midwest Independent Living Choices (MILC). This award will be presented to me in February 2025 in Madison, WI, and is the result of tireless work and assistance provided to one of their unhoused clients. With this collaborative effort, MILC and I were able to secure housing for this elderly community member.

This year was indeed a busy and satisfying one for this position. I continue to navigate through this challenging position and help the people of Portage County and Stevens Point. In 2024, I continued with the role of Veteran Affairs Officer, working with veterans who may need assistance.

The final count for 2024 was 1400 welfare checks, 69 voluntary commitments, 35 emergency detentions (Chapter 51), 2 alcohol commitments, and 5 suicides.

With my experience as Crisis Intervention Officer, I have continued to be a liaison for SPPD with different agencies, such as Portage County Health and Human Services, Salvation Army, ROCC Point (local mental health drop-in center), Franciscan Center, CAP Services, etc. Besides being a liaison to these agencies, I attend numerous monthly meetings to exchange pertinent information that benefits not only SPPD but those agencies that serve the community. An example of some of these meetings are Salvation Army board meetings, ROCC Point board meetings, crisis meetings with Portage County Health and Human Services, and Suicide Death Reviews.

The CIO position continues to be instrumental in assisting Patrol when it comes to monitoring the radio traffic and “jumping” (taking over) welfare checks and emergency detentions. This is an important aspect because it frees up officers to perform other aspects of police work. This position helps reduce the need to call officers in on overtime.

I look forward to the continued support of this position and my service to the city of Stevens Point. The Crisis Intervention position is a crucial resource in today’s world. The department recognizes the importance of mental health awareness and getting people mental health support and resources available to them in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

*Crisis Officer Michael Radsek
Administration Division*



STEVENS POINT

1701 FRANKLIN STREET
715-344-1833



FIRE DEPARTMENT

STEVENS POINT, WI 54481
FAX: 715-346-1599

Jb D. MOODY
FIRE CHIEF

Police & Fire Commission
Fire Chief's Report – June 2025

57 Members Approved

55 Positions Funded

44 Positions Staffed

Significant Events

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • 3126 Whiting Ave Structure Fire | 06/17/2025 |
| • 2701 Forest Drive Structure Fire (Plover) | 06/24/2025 |
| • Live Fire Instructor State Exam | 06/28/2025 |
| • 2725 Church Street Vehicle Fire | 06/28/2025 |
| • SPFD Strategic Plan and Development | |
| • Firefighter/Paramedic Conditional offers | |
| • Performance Improvement Plan Policy and Training | |

Monthly Training:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Crisis Intervention Training | • County MABAS Drill SPFD Host |
| • Dr. Sinclair Seizures | • Whiting Fire Hotwash |
| • Stroke Training | • Live Scope and Side Scan |
| • Fireworks Trauma | • Lineage Logistics Walk Through |
| • Ventilation Training | • High Angle Removal of Victim from Roof |
| • Medically Significant Behavior | • Sentry Insurance Highrise Operations |
| • Annual Hose Testing | |
| • Sprinkler System Operations | |
| • Weekly Scrap #94 (Do Your Damn Job) | |

Public Activities:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Extinguisher Training Boys and Girls Club | 06/02/2025 |
| • World Elder Abuse Awareness Night Event | 06/11/2025 |
| • Fire Drill Lincoln Center | 06/13/2025 |
| • Touch a Truck Safety Event 801 County HH | 06/16/2025 |
| • Explorer Post Meeting | 06/18/2025 |
| • McKinley Summer School | 06/19/2025 |
| • Blood Drive at Station 1 | 06/23/2025 |
| • CAP Services Safety Event | 06/23/2025 |

June 2025 PFC Emergency Management Report

Attended Meetings:

- Riverfront Rendezvous Festival Planning Meeting

Attended Trainings:

- Wisconsin Emergency Planning & Special Needs (16 hours)

Tours:

- None

EM Responses:

- None

Additional Information:

- None