



Police Department City of Wisconsin Rapids

444 West Grand Avenue Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495

DANIEL HOSTENS, CHIEF

TEL: (715)-423-4444

FAX: (715)-423-4408

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To: Mayor Shane Blaser

Wisconsin Rapids Police and Fire Commission

Wisconsin Rapids Common Council

From: Daniel Hostens, Chief of Police

RE: Report on the Police Department activity for February 2024

Departmental Activity/Training:

Working on the 2023 Police Department Annual Report

Police and Fire Commission meeting

Wood County Law Enforcement Executives meeting.

Command staff meeting.

Completed mandated training and monthly range training.

Monthly Special Response Team (SRT) and Crisis Negotiator (CNT) training

Sgt Burger attended the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Officers Association conference in Fon Du Lac, WI, where he was recertified as a DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) and attended an OWI legal update.

Officer Contreras attended Honor Guard training at the State Patrol Academy in Fort McCoy, WI.

Sgt Burger attended Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents, an online course.

Sgt. Borchardt attended Advanced Crisis Intervention Team and Community Leadership training.

Ofc. Krier spent 7 days in February as an FTO and completed Instructor Development training.

Ofc. Zalewski spent 10 days in February as an FTO.

For the month, 2024 vs. 2023:

Calls for Service	2024	1,485	2023	1186
OWI	2024	9	2023	8
Traffic Crash Inv.	2024	45	2023	36
Traffic/Municipal Citations	2024	198	2023	208
Written Warnings	2024	527	2023	357
Restricted Parking Tickets	2024	109	2023	141

Administration Staff

Ordinance	February Days Worked	Calls for Service	Written Warnings	Citations	Complete without Enforcement Action	Parking Citations	OWI	Arrests	Crash Reports	Totals
Andrys	19	43	0	3	41	0	0	0	0	44

Open Records	Request	Completed	Denials	Redactions	Pending Release	Time (in hours)
February	70	68	1	4	1	6.35

Notable Incidents

02/14/24 – At approximately 7:25 am, officers received a call of a stolen vehicle from a local business. With GPS information received from the stolen car, officers from the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department and the Wood County Sheriff's Department were able to locate the vehicle and arrest a juvenile suspect at Walmart ten minutes after the initial complaint was called in.

02/15/24 – On 02/15/24, officers received an anonymous tip that a male subject would be downtown between the Grand Avenue and Jackson Street bridges with fishing equipment. This subject had numerous warrants and was also suspected of setting up a drug deal and using fishing as a cover. Officers located the subject and arrested him for his warrants. A search of his property found 6.2 grams of methamphetamine. The arrest resulted in the subject being charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Deliver, Possession of Paraphernalia, Obstructing an Officer, and Felony Bail Jumping.

02/28/24 – Officers received a complaint of suspicious activity at a local bar and requested a walk through the establishment. As officers arrived, two individuals ran, and a passerby directed officers to a residence nearby. Officers could arrest two individuals for probation violations, leaving two individuals hiding in the residence. Sgt. Fleisner deployed Lex at the front door and made announcements for the individuals to give up. The two remaining subjects complied with announcements and were taken into custody without injury to the officers of the subjects.

Officers searched the residence under ACT 79 and located the following:

120 grams of marijuana

paraphernalia

1.1grams methamphetamine

4.1 grams cocaine

One suspect was charged with Possession of THC, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Paraphernalia, and Maintaining a Drug Trafficking House.

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One subject was arrested for multiple in and out-of-county warrants.

2/19 - 2/28 (FTO duties)—Crew B SGT was an FTO. The experience was good for the probationer, Crew, and SGT. It created good discussions regarding procedures and policies. It also allowed the Crew to work with the new officer, increasing department unity and allowing the Crew to work with the new officer, who may soon become a member of the Crew B team.

2/25 (Disturbances) (24-02942) LT Cornette observed a fight in progress in front of Lucky's Bar at bar time. One of the subjects involved was identified as Gavin Hesso. The scene was cleared with no arrests. Officers were called to the downtown area several times after that to respond to incidents regarding a subject who had called 911 several times demanding the Police give him a ride home and find his phone. The subject was told to walk home due to his erratic behavior and was told not to call 911 anymore. He left the immediate area and started shouting vulgarities and eventually called 911 near the location of 4th AVE and Jackson ST. He was taken into custody immediately and charged with misuse of 911, DC, and several bond violations.

2/25 (Overdose) (24-02940) - Officers were experiencing an increase in call volume during this particular shift. After an increase in activity from the downtown area, they were dispatched to an overdose at the Cranberry Creek Apartments. The situations created the need to prioritize efforts and refrain from unnecessary radio traffic while working together. They took it upon themselves to cover each other's beats for calls for service. This will pay dividends in the future when responding to emergent high-risk calls. WOSO also assisted because the WRPD officers were tied up with other calls for service. The subject was administered NARCAN by WOSO and WRPD, resulting in the subject being revived and transported to the ER. Officers were professional when interviewing the caller. Info was passed on to the WRPD DET Bureau.

2/28 (Disturbance) (24-03176) OFC McHugh responded to a disturbance call at 430 8th AVE S with other officers. Upon arrival, VICTIM stated that a male had a knife. OFCs drew Tasers and handguns. SUBJECT, later IDed as Dakota Ball, was taken into custody without incident. Upon investigation, it was learned that Ball has a history of such actions. Ball did not allow the victim to leave and threatened to kill the victim with a knife. Ball had stated that he would put drugs in the victim's food and have her drug tested in an attempt to keep her at the residence. Several other incidents of DA/DC were reported in the recent past. Ball was arrested for DA/DC, False imprisonment while armed, and DA/DC strangulation.

2/29 (Welfare Check involving Gun) (24-03216) Crew B Officers responded to 310 9th ST N. for a welfare check regarding an intoxicated female stating she wanted to end her life. According to the complainant, she had access to a firearm in her bedroom. Upon arrival, the female was tactically contacted in her breezeway. She attempted to enter her residence and tried closing the entry door on responding officers. The incident was similar to calls in the past with the subject. The subject is known to have problems with alcohol and admitted that she needs help. The subject stated she is aware that she may die soon due to her alcoholism. Officers assisted and responded according to policy and procedure. The subject was subsequently taken into custody for emergency detention, transported to the ER, medically cleared, and transported to Norwood for emergency detention without incident. The family was informed of the process and was thankful for the assistance, which was extremely taxing.

On 2/19/24, Detective Bailey completed an investigation regarding a child sexual assault that occurred approximately 22 years ago at a Wisconsin Rapids residence. Detective Bailey identified and spoke with numerous family members and witnesses to corroborate the victim's statement. Detective Bailey contacted the suspect, who has since moved to southern Wisconsin, and questioned him regarding the allegations. As a result of this investigation, Detective Bailey referred the following charges to the Wood County District Attorney's Office: two counts of Causing Mental Harm to a Child, two counts of Child Enticement, and two counts of 1st Degree Sexual Assault of a Child.

Detective Wetterau completed a drug investigation that lasted throughout February, in which he organized the purchase of THC and methamphetamine on numerous occasions from the suspect. Throughout this investigation, Detective Wetterau arranged for the purchase of approximately 25.3 grams of methamphetamine and approximately 18.2 grams of THC products. After this investigation, the following charges were referred to the Wood County District Attorney's Office: 3 counts of Manufacture/Deliver Methamphetamine and Manufacture/Deliver THC.

On 02/13/24, Officers conducted a traffic stop for an equipment violation. The stop became an OWI investigation, which resulted in an arrest for OWI, the discovery of a loaded firearm without a permit, 82 grams of THC, and 497 grams (>1lb) of Psilocybin mushrooms.

On 02/23/2024, Officers conducted a traffic stop on Carey St. One subject exited the vehicle and surrendered to officers as the vehicle fled officers. Shortly after that, that vehicle was located, and officers fled again. Spike strips led to the vehicle's driver disabling the vehicle without causing any other damage to property. It was determined to be a stolen vehicle, with two juveniles arrested on the scene and a third located, interviewed, and released to parents later that morning.

Other Activity

Our agency received 12 Child Protective Service Reports from Wood County Human Services for investigation/review.

Donald Maier, the suspect in the 1985 homicide case involving Benny Skruggs, passed away in his prison cell on February 23, 2024. It was anticipated that this case would go to trial in the spring or summer months of this year. Detective Bailey was the most recent detective to be assigned to this investigation. Our agency will await further information from DOJ Attorneys regarding the case's status.

On February 8, Officer Plowman transported approximately 25 firearms to the State Crime Lab for destruction with the assistance of Sgt. Daven. Sgt. Daven continues to spend a lot of time in the evidence room disposing or returning property we no longer need and is establishing a more efficient process for maintaining the evidence room moving forward.

SRO Olivares is leading the 2024 Student Academy, which began in February.

SRO Pelot provided department tours for several youth groups/classes throughout February.

All detectives/SROs received their Taser training for the new Tasers we received.

The Detective Bureau worked 60.75 hours of overtime (calculated at time and one half). This does not include drug task force overtime that gets reimbursed throughout the year.

An additional 4.88 hours will be applied for reimbursement through drug task force grants for general detective overtime related to a drug investigation. They will be reimbursed pending available grant funds at the end of the year.

Crew C made three drug arrests and one drug paraphernalia arrest/citation.

Officers were dispatched to a driving complaint where the suspect vehicle sideswiped the complainant's vehicle. The suspect vehicle continued and did not stop. Sgt. Borchardt located the car and attempted a traffic stop. The suspect vehicle fled, and Sgt. Borchardt pursued the vehicle. After .4 miles, the suspect's vehicle came to a stop, and the suspect was taken into custody. After being taken into custody, officers recovered 1.2 grams of fentanyl. The male subject was charged with Fleeing/Eluding an Officer, OWI, Possession of Fentanyl, Hit and Run, and Reckless Driving.

Sgt. Borchardt observed a male subject on the side of the roadway. Sgt. Borchardt identified the male subject and was advised through Wood County Dispatch that the male subject had outstanding warrants. Sgt. Borchardt contacted the male subject, and after the male was informed of his warrants, he fled on foot. Sgt. Borchardt and Ofc. Krier initiated a foot pursuit and apprehended the male subject briefly later. Sgt. Borchardt searched the male subject and located .23 grams of methamphetamine. The male subject was booked into the Wood County Jail on outstanding warrants and the charges of Resisting an Officer, Possession of Methamphetamine, Felony Bail Jumping, and two counts of Misdemeanor Bail Jumping.

K9 Kubo

Narcotics Deployments	Narcotics Found	Patrol Deployments	Demonstrations	Training Hours	Agency Assists
7	3	2		12.25	2

K9 Lex

Narcotics Deployments	Narcotics Found	Patrol Deployments	Demonstrations	Training Hours	Agency Assists
3	2	2	4	12.25	3

Drugs Taken In:

Possession of Marijuana	106.51 grams 3 THC Cart.
Methamphetamine	32.97 grams
Fentanyl	1.91 grams
Cocaine	0 grams
Psilocybin Mushrooms	497 grams
Other: Gabapentin	5 Units
Xanax	2 Units

Overtime Hours							
	Crew A	Crew B	Crew C	Crew D	Detectives	Code Enf.	Totals
Call time	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	12.00
Chapter 51	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.88	0.00	0.00	1.88
Community	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.50	0.00	21.00
Court	8.00	45.50	16.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	85.50
Emergency call	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FMLA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Late Call	10.51	0.38	15.37	4.13	5.63	0.00	36.02
Other	1.50	1.50	7.50	11.27	34.62	0.00	56.39
Sick	45.00	4.50	9.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	76.50
Training	43.25	9.50	49.50	48.00	0.00	0.00	150.25
Cover Training	9.00	7.00	32.50	6.75	0.00	0.00	55.25
Vacation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worker's Comp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Search Warrant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FTO Pay	0.00	15.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.75
K9 Pay	21.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.00
Total	146.76	84.13	133.87	106.03	60.75	0.00	531.54