

FORT DODGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



CHIEF'S CORNER

On behalf of the Fort Dodge Police Department, it is my pleasure to present to you our 2018 Annual Report. I hope you find it to be both informative and educational, as it is an open and honest representation of what we have done over the past year. As the report indicates, overall crime in Fort Dodge has declined by almost 5% in 2018. This is due in large part to the active involvement we have seen from our citizens to support law enforcement in its mission to help keep our community safe. Working together makes all the difference, and we will continue to earn your support in 2019.



Chief Roger Porter

Although policing has changed a lot over the years, solving and preventing crime remains a top priority for this department. To accomplish this task, we work hard to establish partnerships in the community through the many community policing programs and events. Programs such as Citizens Academy, Fight Like a Girl, National Night Out and community safety picnics, just to name a few, remain a large part of our community policing efforts. Our community partnerships are extremely valuable--without the positive relationships crime fighting is an uphill battle.

The past year and a half will be remembered as a time of transition at the Fort Dodge Police Department, with a number of promotions to the supervisory and management ranks, which were left void by a number of retirements. This is an exciting time within our department as new visions and endeavors are currently taking place, focusing on community, training and leadership. The Fort Dodge Police Department is dedicated to reaching the highest level of professionalism through progressive policies, training, and technology.

As we move forward through 2019 and beyond, our top priorities will be to continue to foster positive relationships within the community through our community policing efforts. Additionally, we look to continue our efforts in training so that we are able to provide the most professional police force this community deserves.

Sincerely,



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Fort Dodge
Police Department

fortdodgeiowa.org

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS



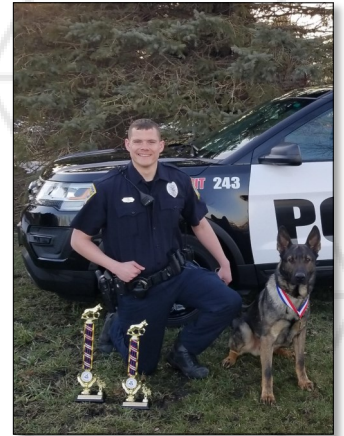
Captain Quintin Nelson celebrated 30 years with FDPD in August 2018.



Officer Paul Samuelson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in November 2018. He began with FDPD in 2015.



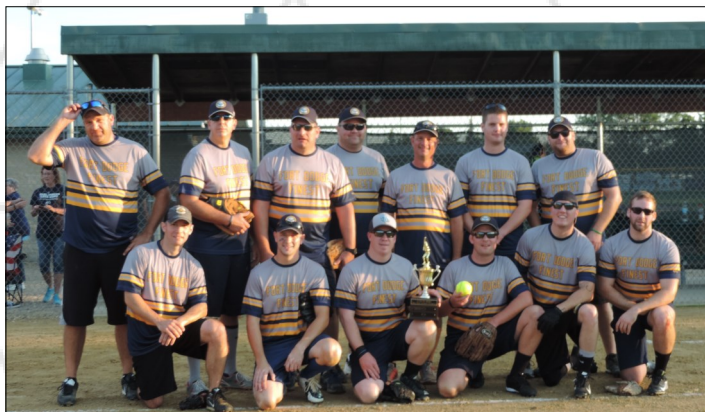
Officer Jacob Naatz participated with K9 Abram at the United States Police Canine Association's Narcotics Trials. Out of 50 teams, they earned Top Rookie Team, 2nd Place Vehicle Search, and 3rd Place Overall,



Officer Bryan Slama celebrated 20 years with FDPD in September 2018.



Officer Bryce Presswood was selected to travel to Kosovo to represent FDPD as a member of the Iowa delegation in the Sister City/Sister State Exchange Program in August 2018.

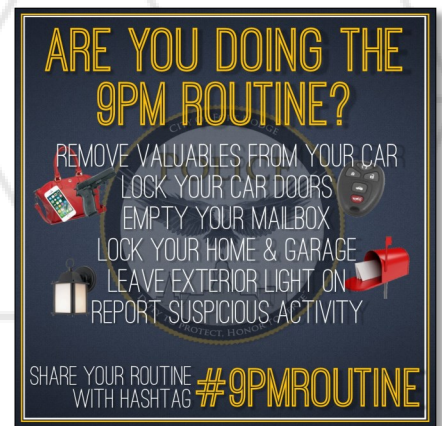


FDPD prevailed once again over the Fire Department at the 2018 Guns 'N' Hoses event held in September. The winning team consisted of: (front row, L to R) Capt. Ryan Gruenberg, Sgt. Zach Stanley, Sgt. Don McLaren, Ofc. Matt Burns, Ofc. Cody Harris, Det. Evan Thompson (back row, L to R) Sgt. Steve Hanson, Lt. Dennis Quinn, Ofc. Chris Weiland, Ofc. Neal Cooley, Chief Roger Porter, Dep. Alex Winninger (WCSD), and Det. Tom Steck.

CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY

9PM ROUTINE

In an effort to reduce the number of car burglaries and other “crimes of opportunity” in the Fort Dodge community, we began promoting the 9PM Routine. Originally started in Pasco County, Florida in 2017, the 9PM Routine encourages participation in a nightly routine that involves removing valuable items from your vehicles, locking your car doors, securing garages and sheds, and turning exterior lights on in an effort to deter criminal activity. We began promoting the 9PM Routine on our social media profiles beginning in June of 2018. Since then, we’ve seen a slight decline in car burglaries and other crimes against property. We look to continue and improve upon this trend in 2019 and in the years to come.

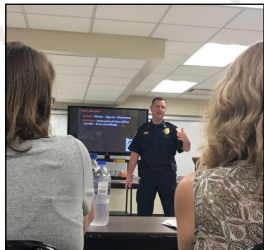


NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

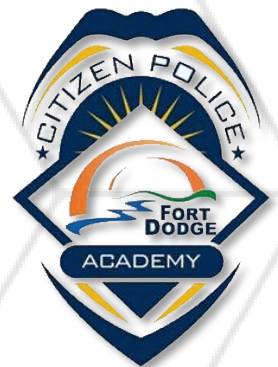
There are a number of active Neighborhood Watch groups across Fort Dodge. This program connects participating neighbors in a defined area in an effort to monitor suspicious activity and cut down on crime in the neighborhood. Each group has a leader who coordinates meetings and helps to facilitate communication amongst group members. The Neighborhood Watch Program is overseen by Community Resource Officers Joelyn Johnson and Bryce Presswood.



CITIZENS ACADEMY

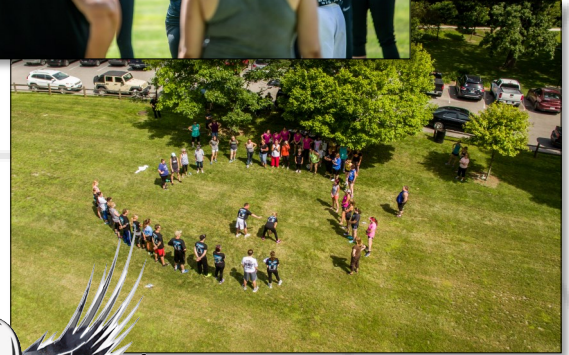


In the fall of 2018, the Fort Dodge Police Department conducted our 14th session of Citizens Academy. This 8-week program offered to Webster County citizens includes presentations from FPD and our public safety partners, including Webster County Sheriff, Fort Dodge Fire Department, Iowa State Patrol, Webster County Attorney, Juvenile Court Services, Webster County Telecommunications, CrimeStoppers, Probation/Parole, and Iowa Judicial District 2. The goals of this program are to: help participants better understand the resources and programs available; how we work together to most effectively deal with crime and social issues; give participants the opportunity to get to know their public safety partners; and give us the opportunity to get to know and understand members of our community. The program consists of presentations that are both in a classroom setting and hands-on, and it is completely free to all participants.



FIGHT LIKE A GIRL

Fort Dodge Police Department held its inaugural Fight Like a Girl event in the summer of 2018 in response to concerns some citizens had about safety on our city trails and sidewalks. With the expertise of Faiferlick Martial Arts and generous donations from local businesses, we were able to provide a free event that offered self-defense techniques women can use to defend themselves if they find themselves in vulnerable situations. Attendees were also given personal safety items they may help them feel safer. Look for this event again in the summer of 2019



2018 by the numbers

Population of Fort Dodge: **25,003**
of sworn officers: **40**
of detectives: **6**
Full-time civilian staff: **3**
Total calls for service: **34,587**
Total (non-accident) incident reports filed: **3,102**

Total accident reports filed: **944**
Total DWI reports filed: **88**
Total offenses, including "information only" offenses: **3,383**
Total officer-issued citations: **1,739**
Total parking tickets issued: **4,563**
Total Mobile Speed Unit violations issued: **4,632**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is an annual celebration that promotes community-building and stronger police-community relationships in an effort to make our neighborhoods safer. The 2018 event was held on Tuesday, August 7th at City Square Park in downtown Fort Dodge. With the generosity of many volunteers and local businesses and organizations, we were able to provide a completely free event that included a delicious meal and lots of games, activities, and giveaways. Law enforcement partners from across Webster County came together to offer helpful information about the resources available and to educate attendees about the ways in which we all work together to make our community safer and stronger. We look forward to this event every summer and can't wait to do it all again on August 6, 2019!



LIP SYNC CHALLENGE

Social media is known for the crazy challenges issued to willing participants. The summer of 2018 was no different, as the Police Lip Sync Battle took the world by storm. Though we entered the battle a little late in the game, we thought we owed it to our community to participate in some way—and what better way than with the classic Queen song, “Somebody to Love.” Taking the idea that police officers are often looked at as humorless and unapproachable, we wanted to turn that idea on its head and express our gratitude for the support our local community has shown us. With our very own Officer Matt Weir in the lead role as FPD’s own Freddie Mercury, and several other officers making cameos as well, we knew we were making something special for our community. We had a lot of fun filming the video and we had even more fun because hundreds of members of the community were able to join us for the final scene. You can find the video on our YouTube channel.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Fort Dodge Police Department is proud to participate in fundraising events for Special Olympics Iowa. The Cop On A Rooftop event at Dunkin Donuts in September has been very successful each year, with Fort Dodge being one of the top fundraising communities in the State. Officers climbed their way to the roof of the store holding signs encouraging passersby to stop to make a donation.



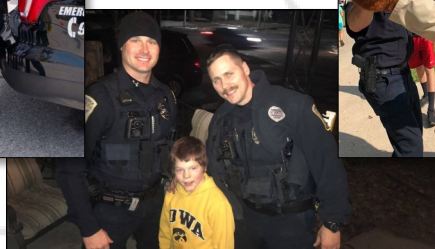
In November, FDPD participated in the Polar Plunge at Kennedy Park. Members of our department joined with other members of the community to set fundraising goals, wear crazy costumes (this year's team theme was "Cops & Robbers"), and jump into the frigid water, all to raise money and support for this great organization.



SANTA COPS

Santa Cops is our favorite community event each year. In 2018, the Fort Dodge Police Association was able to provide more than 100 kids with the opportunity to go Christmas shopping with an officer. Each child, identified for the program by their school counselor, was given \$100 to spend on gifts for themselves. Needless to say, the event provides lots of heartwarming

moments, and seeing the smiles on the kids faces is priceless. With the help of our public safety partners, Webster County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State Patrol, Department of Transportation, as well as volunteers from Fort Dodge realtors, the two-night event was a huge success. Without the support of area businesses, generous community members, and our host, Target, this event would not be possible.

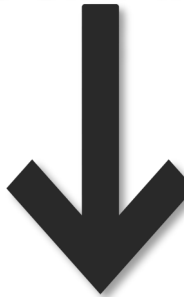
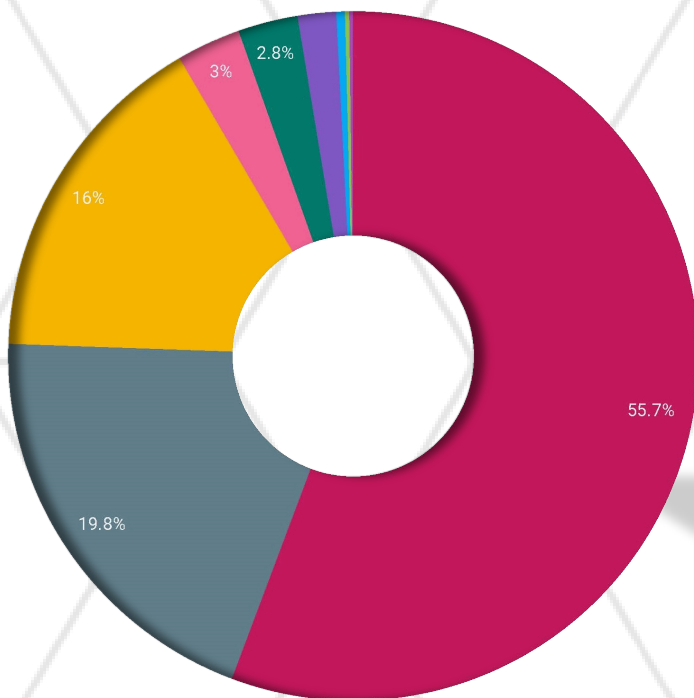


2018 CRIME STATISTICS OVERVIEW

The Fort Dodge Police Department participates in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. This nationwide, cooperative statistical effort is utilized to generate reliable information by following National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) guidelines. Using criteria outlined by this program, offenses are separated into 24 offense categories made up of 52 specific crimes called Group A offenses, which are further divided into crimes against persons, property, or society. For each of these offenses, all incident data is reported to the program. There are also ten Group B offense categories, for which only arrest data is submitted. The numbers provided here represent the total number of offenses reported, not the total number of incidents. There are often, though not always, multiple offenses per incident.



In 2018,
Ft. Dodge saw a
4.58% decline
in all crimes reported
compared to 2017

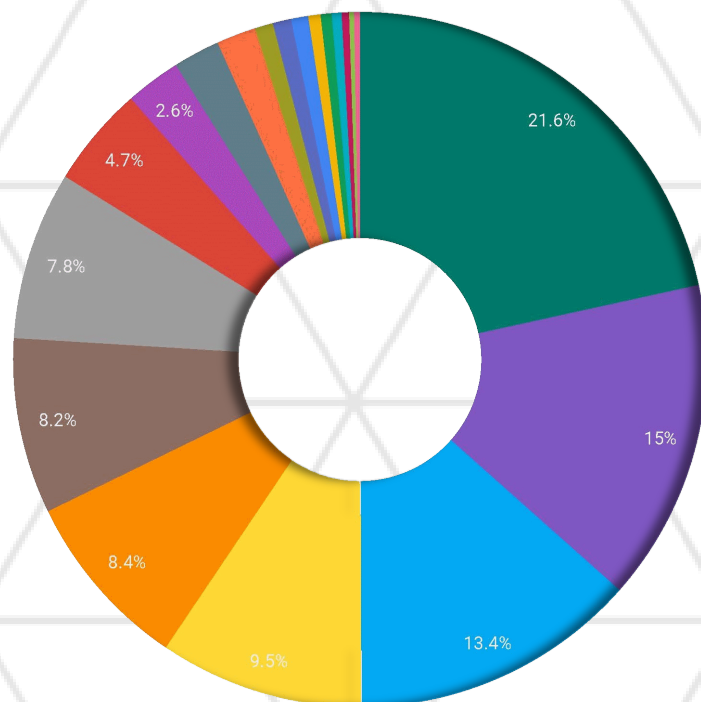
Crimes Against Persons

OFFENSE	2018	2017
SIMPLE ASSAULT	278	231
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	99	115
INTIMIDATION	80	48
FORCIBLE RAPE	15	27
FORCIBLE FONDLING	14	11
KIDNAPPING/ABUDUCTION	9	6
MURDER/NON-NEG MANSLAUGHTER	2	1
SEX ASSAULT WITH OBJECT	1	2
INCEST	1	0

Though most categories of violent crime were on the decline in 2018, Fort Dodge still saw an increase in simple assault and harassment cases. A double homicide in the late summer of 2018 and the subsequent investigation eventually led to the arrest of the suspect charged with the crimes.

Crimes Against Property

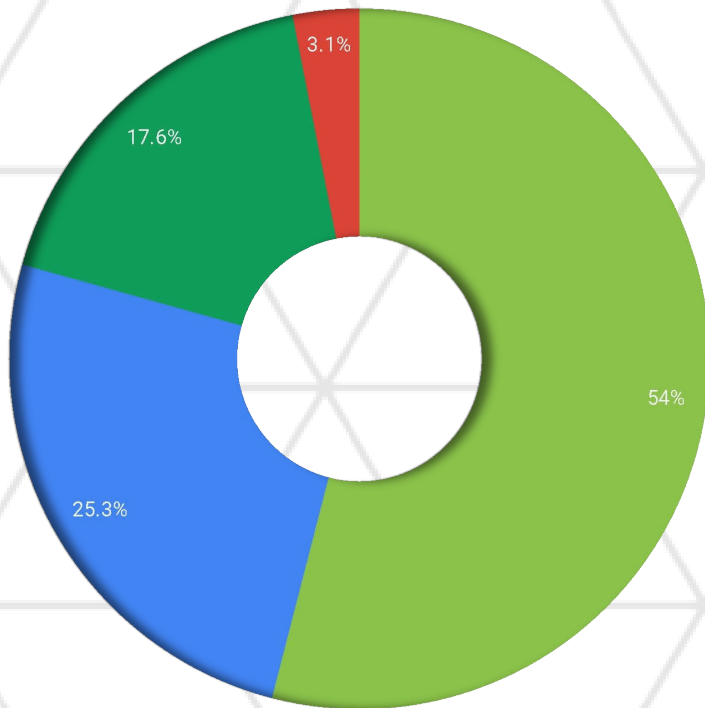
OFFENSE	2018	2017
VANDALISM	377	414
SHOPLIFTING	262	293
THEFT FROM BUILDING	234	232
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	166	180
OTHER THEFT	146	146
COUNTERFEIT/FORGERY	143	64
BURGLARY	137	139
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	82	60
CREDIT/ATM FRAUD	45	30
FRAUD - SWINDLE/CONFIDENCE	38	24
THEFT OF VEHICLE PART	32	40
ARSON	15	15
IMPERSONATION FRAUD	15	12
ROBBERY	14	22
WELFARE FRAUD	10	0
EMBEZZLEMENT	9	10
THEFT FROM VENDING	8	10
STOLEN PROPERTY	6	7
EXTORTION/BLACKMAIL	4	0
WIRE FRAUD	3	7
BRIBERY	2	0



Fort Dodge saw an increase in the number of fraud offenses reported in 2018. As scammers find new and more intuitive ways of taking advantage of people each day, this trend will likely continue. Education and communication is key to combatting these fraud offenses.

Car burglaries were also one of the more frequently reported crimes in 2018, continuing the trend from 2017. In response to these offenses, Fort Dodge Police Department began participating in and promoting the SPM Routine on social media, which encourages citizens to set aside a certain time each day to ensure their valuables are removed from their vehicles, their doors are locked, and alarms are set.

Crimes Against Society



Drug-related offenses continue to be one of the major areas of concern many communities in Iowa face, and Fort Dodge is no exception. Many of these cases begin with something as simple as a traffic stop, while others come about after extensive investigations. Investigators from the Fort Dodge Police Department, Webster County Sheriff's Department, and the State Division of Narcotics Enforcement, often work diligently with the support of the Webster County Attorney to combat illegal drug activity in our area. Our two K9 officers, Abram and Ozzie, are also instrumental in many of these cases, as they are often used to help detect drugs.

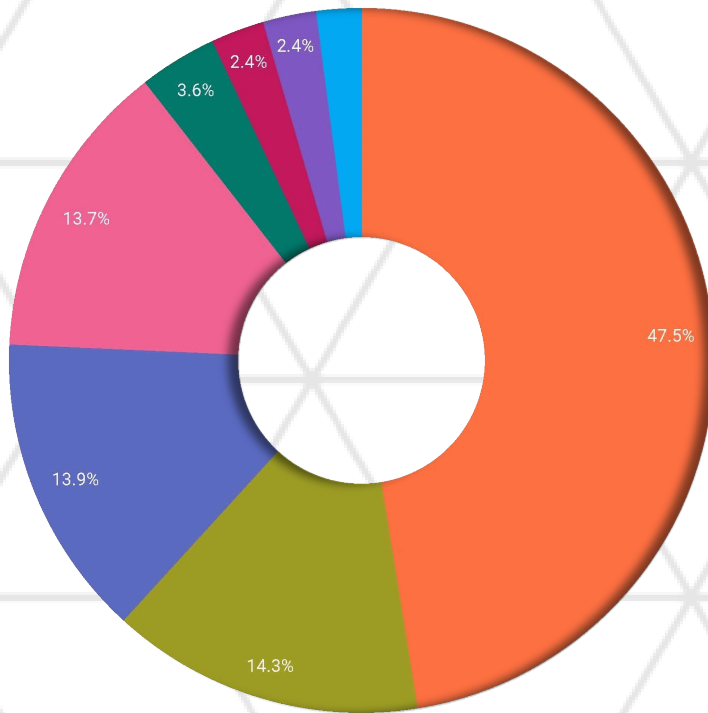
Thanks to the extensive work by all officers and investigators, Fort Dodge saw a 10% decline in drug-related offenses reported in 2018.

OFFENSE	2018	2017
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	175	188
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	82	95
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	57	66
PORNOGRAPHY/OBSCENE MATERIAL	10	6

Drug Types—% of drug offenses



Group B Offenses



The “All Other Offenses” category includes offenses such as violations of no contact orders, voluntary absence from custody (escape), violations of no contact orders, and interference with official acts, among others.

“Information Only” offenses include those that are not reportable by UCR guidelines, and include primarily moving violations such as driving under suspension, seat belt violations, and speeding. This category also includes non crime-related incidents like unattended deaths and missing persons reports.

In 2018, there were 413 “Information Only” offenses reported. In 2017, there were 426.

NIBRS	OFFENSE	2018	2017
90B	ALL OTHER OFFENSES	252	301
90C	DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	76	85
90D	DRUNKENNESS	74	106
90E	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	73	138
90F	BAD CHECKS	19	10
90G	NONVIOLENT FAMILY OFFENSES	13	9
90H	TRESPASSING	13	75
90J	LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	11	19

Traffic Citations Breakdown

Speeding: **374**

Proof of Insurance: **303**

Fail to Stop or Yield: **133**

Seatbelt Violations: **117**

Registration Violations: **100**

Driving While Suspended/
Revoked: **216**

Failure to Maintain Control: **81**



Roger Porter
Chief, 22 yrs



Cory Husske
Assistant Chief, 14 yrs



Quintin Nelson
Captain, 30 yrs



Ryan Gruenberg
Captain, 8 yrs



Dennis Mernka
Lieutenant, 31 yrs



Matt Wilson
Lieutenant, 21 yrs



Joseph Bates
Lieutenant, 19 yrs



Matt Lundberg
Lieutenant, 10 yrs



Dennis Quinn
Lieutenant, 10 yrs



Jody Chansler
Sergeant, 17 yrs



Steve Hanson
Sergeant, 12 yrs



Don McLaren
Sergeant, 11 yrs



Zach Stanley
Sergeant, 7 yrs



Paul Samuelson
Sergeant, 3 yrs



J Lukawski
Patrol, 24 yrs



Bryan Slama
Patrol, 20 yrs



Nick Ruggles
Patrol, 14 yrs



Dan Charlson
Patrol, 11 yrs



Joelyn Johnson
SRO/CRO, 11 yrs



Matt Webb
Patrol, 11 yrs



Leighton Walker
Patrol, 9 yrs



Tom Steck
Investigations, 9 yrs



Keaton Lunn
Investigations, 7 yrs



Chris Weiland
Patrol, 7 yrs



Nate Wolfe
Patrol, 7 yrs



Cody Harris
Patrol, 5 yrs



Matt Burns
Patrol, 4 yrs



Evan Thompson
Investigations, 3 yrs



Larry Hedlund
Investigations, 3 yrs



Caitlyn Carlyle
Patrol, 3 yrs



Bryce Presswood
SRO/CRO, 2 yrs



Matt Weir
Patrol, 2 yrs



Jacob Naatz
Patrol, 2 yrs



Matt Meyer
Patrol, 2 yrs



Allie Thompson
Patrol, 1 yr



Neal Cooley
Patrol, 1 yr



Molly Moeller
Patrol, 1 yr



Harmon Atwood
Patrol, 1 yr



Andrew Lane
Patrol, 1 yr



Chris Taylor
Patrol, FTO



Abram
K9, 2 yrs



Ozzie
K9, 1 yr



Jeremy Moore
Records Technician
7 yrs



Brandi Weinzetl
Evidence Technician
5 yrs



Amber Maxson
Department Secretary
1 yr



Greg Brown
Parking Attendant
2 yrs



Matt Gordon
Parking Attendant
1 yr

Special thanks to KEY Photography for donating their time and services for our official department portraits.

FDPD welcomed three new officers in 2018...



Officer Harmon Atwood graduated from ILEA on August 15th



Officer Andrew Lane was sworn in by Judge Thomas Bice on July 10th.



Officer Chris Taylor graduated from ILEA on December 14th.

