

2025



FITCHBURG
POLICE >>>>
DEPARTMENT








Annual Report

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AT-A-GLANCE STATISTICS

-  **2025 BUDGET**
\$10,519,217
-  **POPULATION**
36,197
-  **SWORN - 54**
NON-SWORN - 11
-  **CALLS FOR SERVICE**
26,309
-  **TOTAL ARRESTS**
1,093
-  **TRAFFIC STOPS**
5,378
-  **RECORDS REQUESTS**
2,362

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Members of the Fitchburg Community,

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud of the resilience, professionalism, and commitment shown by the men and women of the Fitchburg Police Department during a year marked by both challenge and progress.

One of the most significant developments this year was our department's reorganization following a failed referendum. While this outcome required difficult decisions, it also prompted us to take a hard look at how we deploy our resources and deliver services. Our focus throughout this process has been to remain fiscally responsible while continuing to meet the safety needs of our growing community. As a result, we implemented a professional staff reorganization, dissolved in-house dispatch services to allow the department to financially support these structural changes and add a full-time social worker, and increased sworn mid-level management positions to strengthen supervision, accountability, and operational efficiency across the department.



Public safety remains our highest priority, and we continue to see meaningful results from our efforts to reduce gun violence. In 2025, officers seized an increased number of illegal firearms from our community. At the same time, we experienced a decrease in weapons-related calls for service. This trend reflects the effectiveness of targeted enforcement, strong investigative work, and partnerships that focus on preventing violence before it occurs. Each firearm removed represents a potential tragedy avoided and a safer neighborhood for our residents.

We are also encouraged by a measurable decline in domestic violence incidents in 2025. While even one incident is too many, this reduction reflects the department's proactive and collaborative approach to prevention and intervention. Our Domestic Violence Team plays a critical role in this work by taking a data driven approach and focusing on repeat offenders. The follow-up outreach with victims and suspects was key. Understanding the root cause of a problem helped identify the needed outreach. Whether it was through advocacy, community resources, our social worker, or our partners in the District Attorney's Office, utilizing the right tool yielded notable results.

Another milestone this year is the start of construction of our new police facility. This project represents a long-term investment in both public safety and our workforce. The new facility will provide a modern, efficient, and secure environment that better supports our officers, professional staff, and the community members we serve. It will also enhance our ability to respond to emergencies, train effectively, and collaborate with partners now and into the future.

None of this work happens in isolation. I am grateful for the dedication of our employees, the support of City leadership, and the trust of the Fitchburg community. Even in times of uncertainty, our department remains committed to transparency, accountability, and service.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we will keep Fitchburg a safe and welcoming place to live, work, and visit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfonso Morales'.

Chief Alfonso Morales

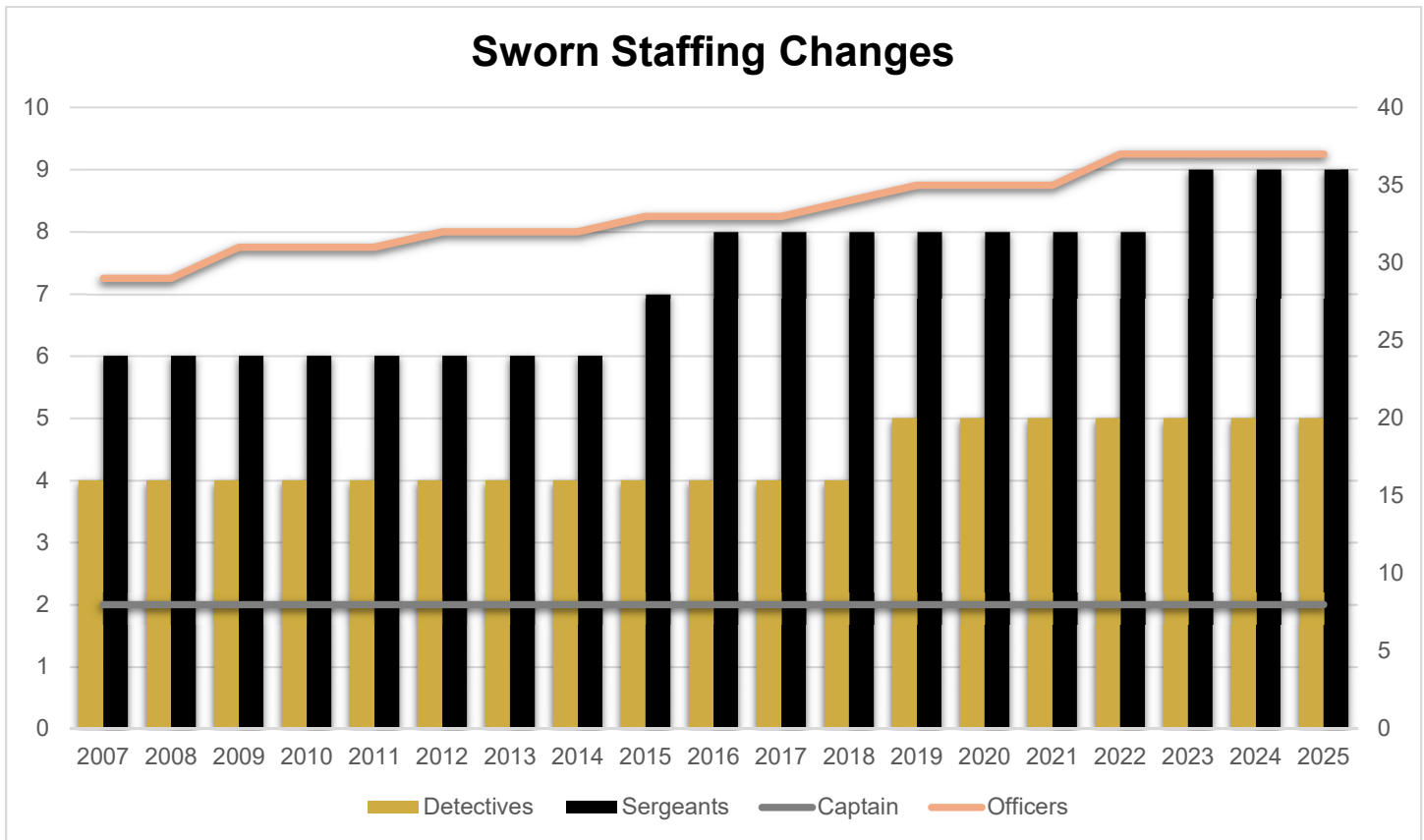
➤ POLICE DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION

In 2025, the department undertook a comprehensive reorganization to better align its staffing structure with the city’s evolving public safety needs and fiscal realities. Fitchburg was identified as being one of the fastest growing cities in the state, but staffing levels were unable to adequately keep up with the pace. Following a failed citywide referendum that did not secure additional funding, department leadership reviewed current resources and identified strategies to improve efficiency with current staff.

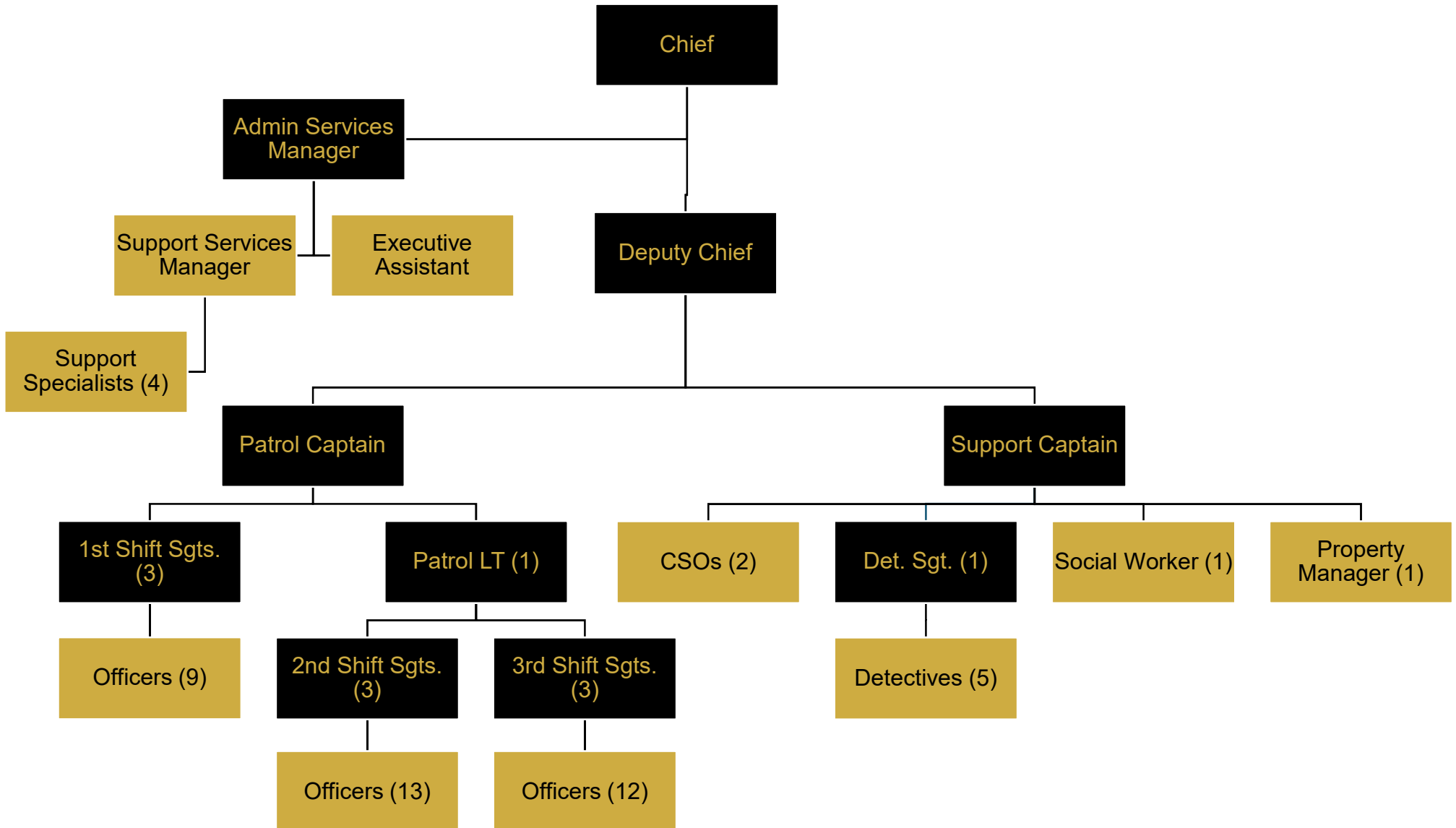
- **Converted 3 Police Officer Vacancies to 2 Supervisory Positions**
 - **Dissolved Fitchburg Dispatch Center**
- Created a Shift Lieutenant
 - Created a Detective Sergeant
 - Converted part-time Social Worker to full-time
 - Reclassified Records staff into Support Specialists
 - Created Evidence Manager

A critically identified need for the department was the creation of additional supervisory personnel. While officer and first line supervisor positions have slowly increased over the years, command leadership has not. The addition of a shift lieutenant and a detective sergeant provided command supervision during the evening hours and narrowed the span of control for both of the captain positions.

The Fitchburg Police Dispatch Center was also disbanded, and dispatch services were transferred to the Dane County Communications Center. Fitchburg dispatchers were limited to only four full-time dispatchers who were supplemented by several part-time dispatchers and often sworn staff filling in vacancies. This staffing model existed for decades with no growth in sight, which led to the decision to disband.

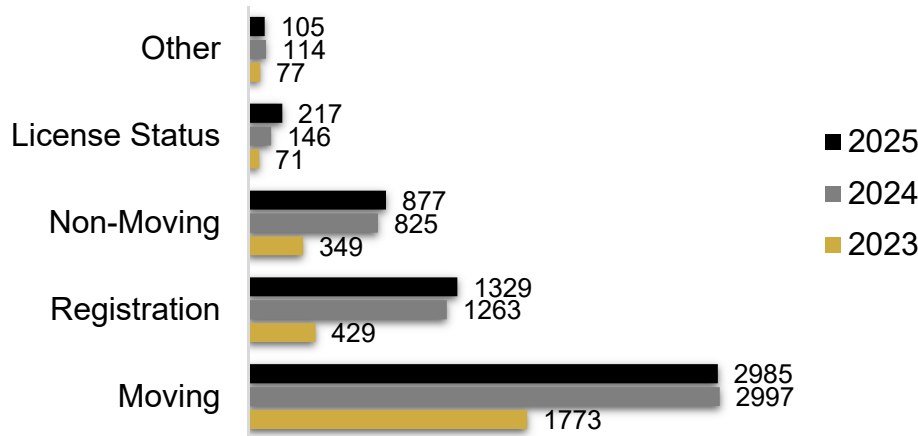


2026 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



TRAFFIC STOPS

REASON FOR TRAFFIC STOP



REASONS FOR STOPS

Other: driver has a warrant/officer investigating a crime.

License status: registered owner's driver's license status (expired, revoked, suspended or no issued license).

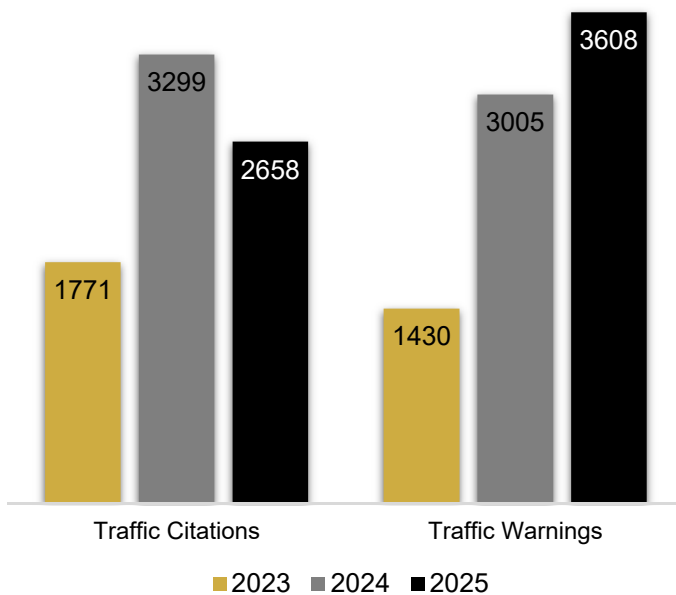
Non-moving: equipment violations

Registration: expired or suspended registration (license plates) or no plates.

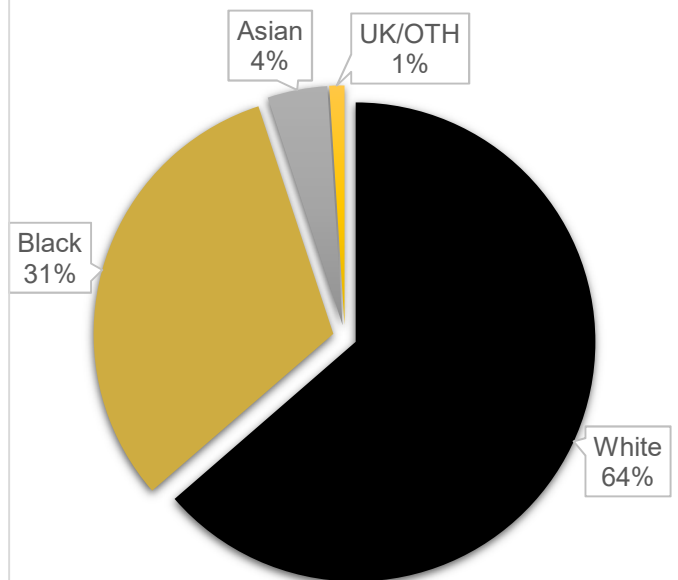
Moving violations: speeding, stop signs, etc.

Traffic safety remains the top concern raised by community members. Residents frequently share worries about unsafe driving behaviors on neighborhood streets and along busy roadways throughout the City. In 2025, officers conducted **5,513 traffic stops**. The majority of these stops involved moving violations, reflecting on our ongoing focus on improving roadway safety and responding to community concerns.

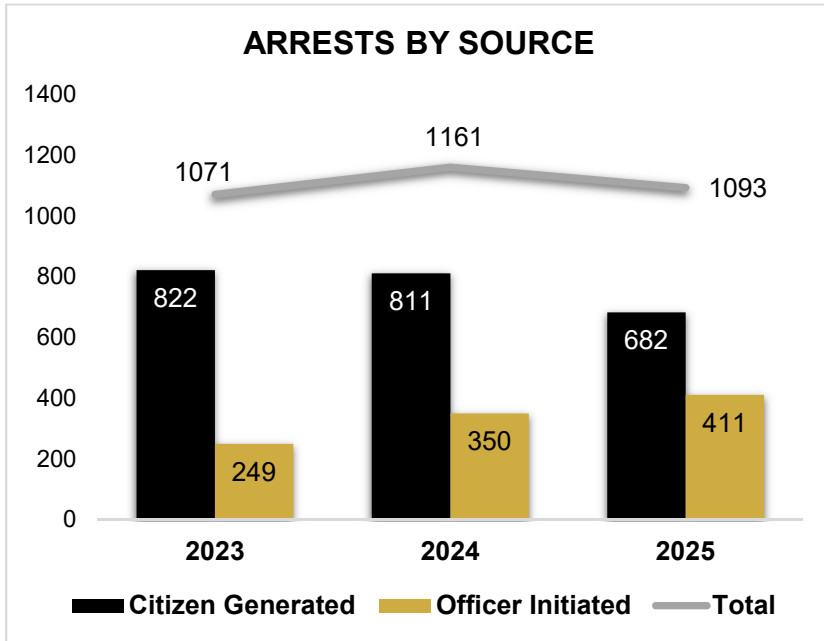
TRAFFIC CITATIONS & WARNINGS



TRAFFIC STOP - DRIVER RACE



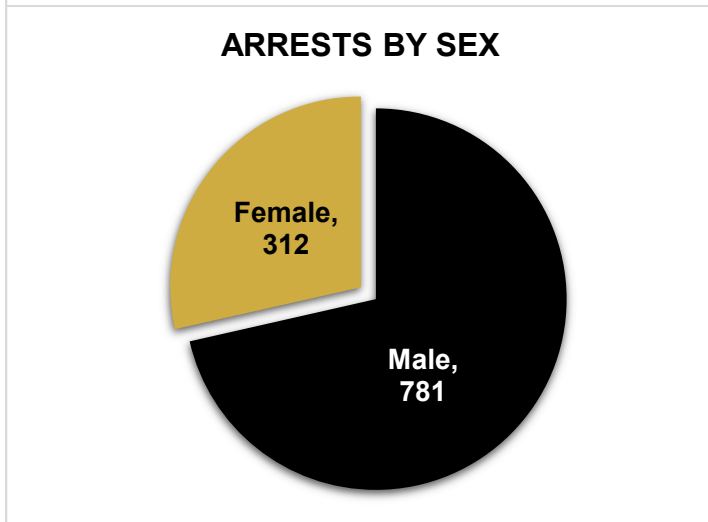
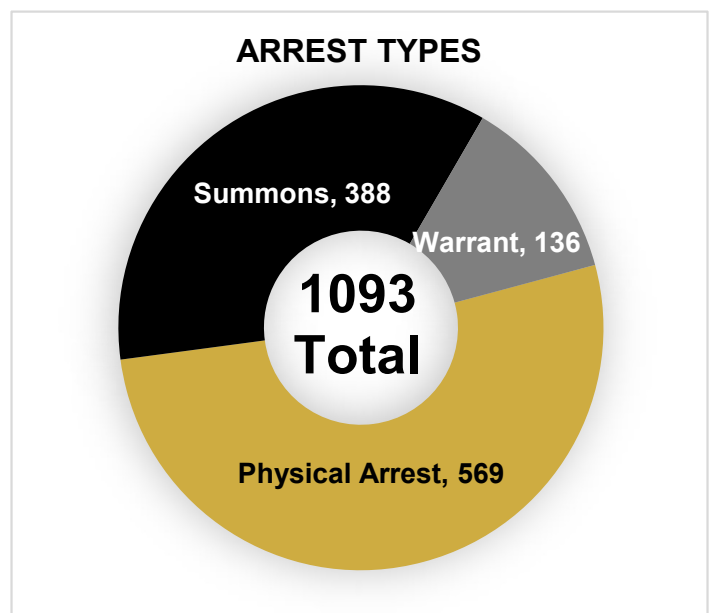
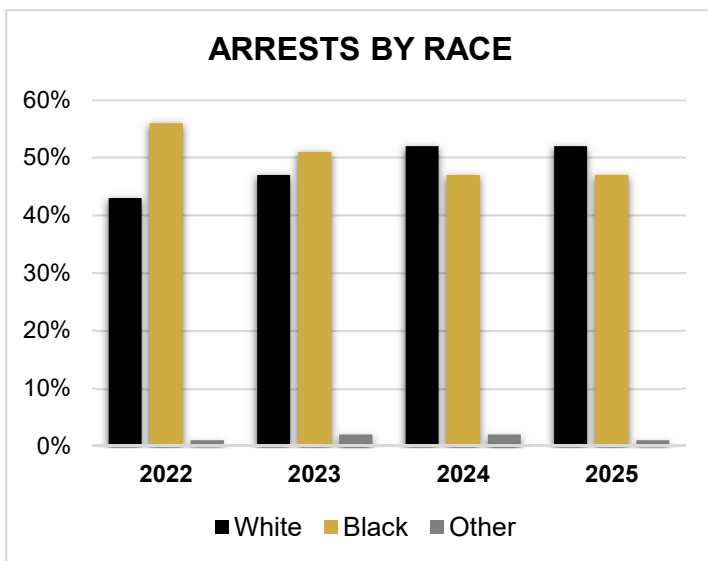
ARREST DATA



CITIZEN GENERATED VS OFFICER INITIATED ARRESTS

Citizen generated indicates the arrest resulted during a call for service that started with a request for service or assistance from a citizen. For example, a citizen called 911 to report a domestic disturbance and an involved person was arrested.

Officer initiated indicates the arrest resulted during an action or investigation initiated by an officer. For example, an officer conducted a traffic stop and arrested the driver for illegally possessing a firearm.

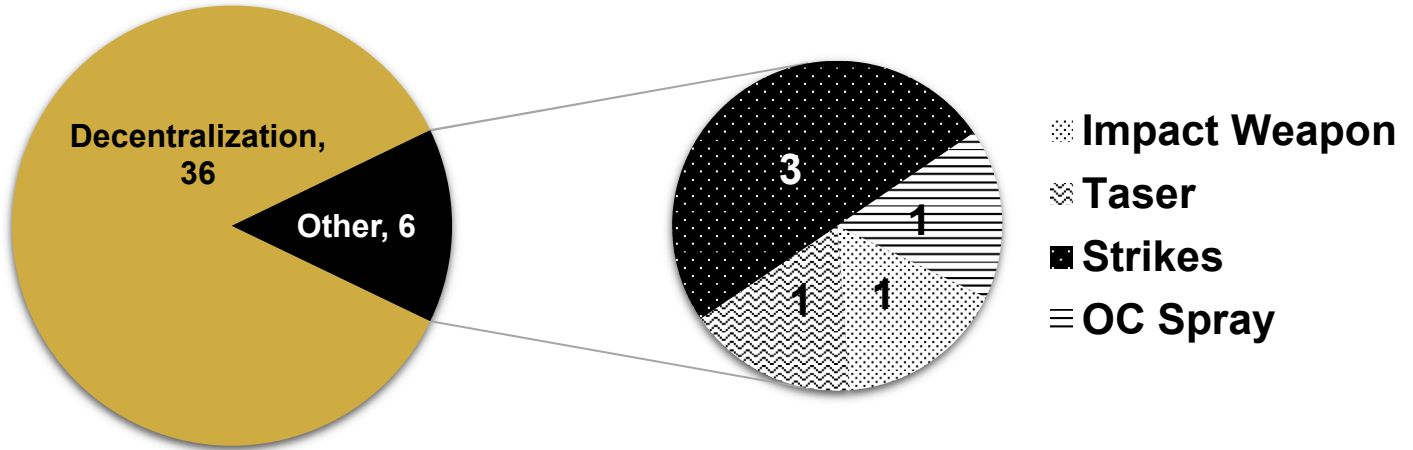


TYPES OF ARRESTS EXPLAINED

Arrests can take different forms depending on the situation and what is most appropriate for public safety. A **physical arrest** occurs when an individual is taken into custody and transported to a detention facility. In other cases, an officer may issue a **summons**, allowing the individual to remain in the community while being required to appear in court at a later date. An **arrest warrant** is issued by a judge and authorizes law enforcement to take a person into custody. Each option is used thoughtfully, with the goal of balancing accountability, safety, and fairness for both the individual and the community.

USE OF FORCE

USE OF FORCE TYPES



Decentralization A trained or dynamically applied technique used to overcome active or passive resistance or the threat of either. Decentralization techniques allow an officer to guide a subject to the ground in a controlled manner. These techniques are often used if a subject is running from an officer or resisting an officer's attempts to gain control.

Impact Weapon A weapon that fires less lethal foam rounds to overcome active resistance or the threat of it.

Taser A deployment of a Taser (electronic control device) is used to overcome active resistance or the threat of it.

Strikes A trained technique to deliver a focused strike using bodily force to a specific target area on another person.

24 USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

1,093
ARRESTS

2.20%
PERCENTAGE OF ARRESTS
WHERE FORCE WAS USED

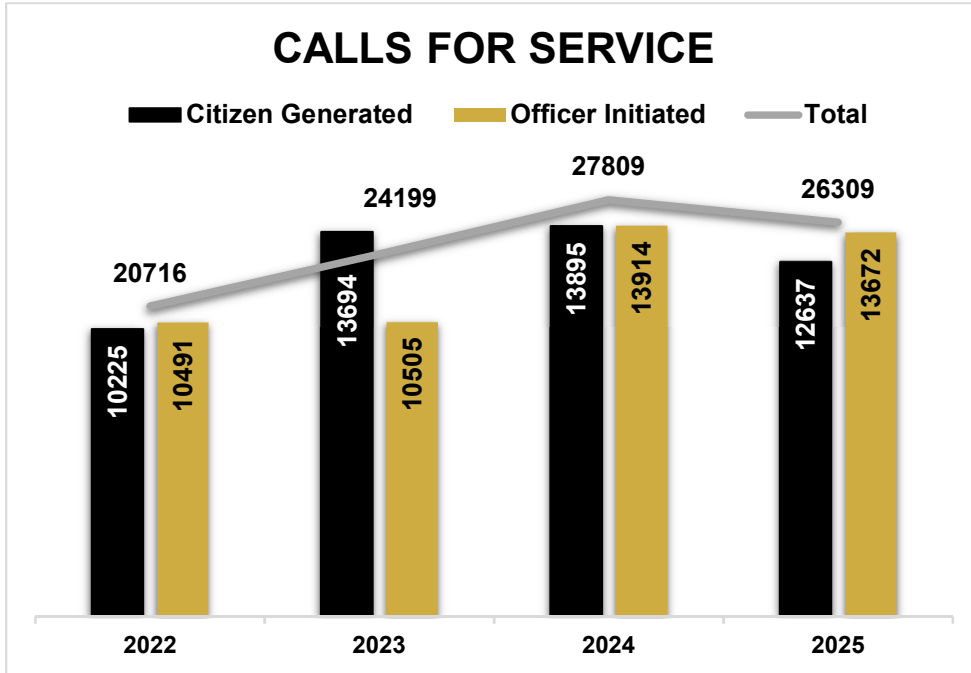
26,309
CALLS FOR SERVICE

0.10%
PERCENTAGE OF CALLS FOR
SERVICE WHERE FORCE WAS
USED

There were 24 incidents that involved the use of physical force above the level of a compliance hold. Of those 24 incidents, there were 38 total separate uses of force among them. This is often due to more than one officer being present during a use of force situation.

DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

CALLS FOR SERVICE



CITIZEN GENERATED VS OFFICER INITIATED CALLS FOR SERVICE

Citizen generated begins when a community member requests police assistance. This can include a 911 call, a non-emergency call, an online report, or an officer being flagged down in person.

Officer initiated begins when an officer takes proactive action based on what they observe or identify while on patrol.

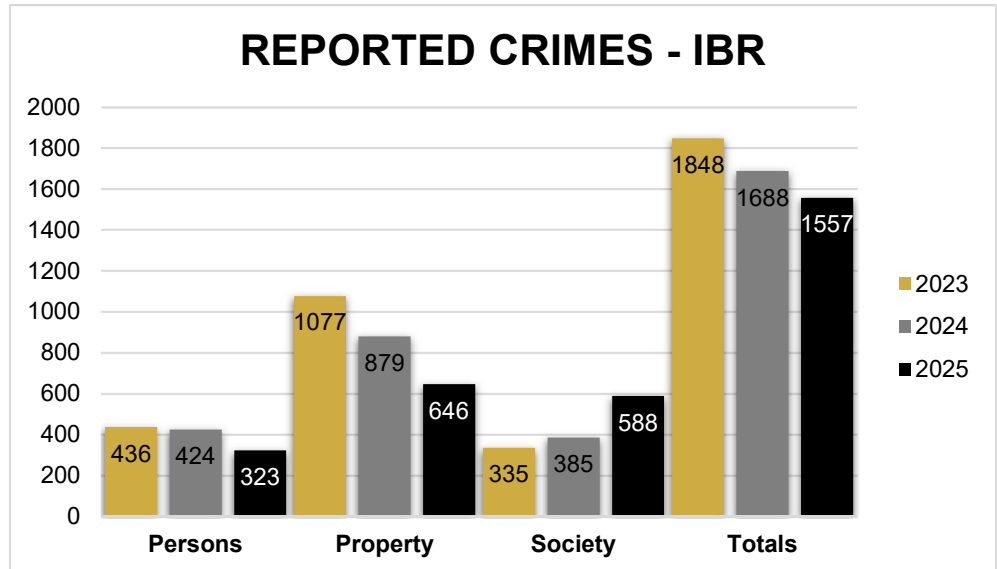
The **Incident Based Reporting** System is the FBI's mechanism for assessing crime statistics.

Persons - crimes such as physical assaults, rape, etc.

Property - crimes such as burglary, theft, etc.

Society – crimes such as drugs, weapons offenses, etc.

REPORTED CRIMES - IBR



TRAFFIC CRASHES	2023	2024	2025	% Change From 2023
Total	562	546	555	
Injury	117	106	86	-26%
Fatal	3	0	3	

FOCUS CRIMES	2023	2024	2025	% Change from 2023
Theft of Auto	83	38	33	-60%
Shots Fired	18	11	6	-67%
Domestic	160	186	138	-14%

INCIDENT BASED REPORTING TOTALS

GROUP A OFFENSES	2023	2024	2025
Animal Cruelty	0	3	1
Assault Offenses	314	317	246
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	59	42	33
Counterfeiting/Forgery	15	14	12
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	178	136	91
Drug & Narcotic Offenses	157	196	330
Embezzlement	8	3	4
Extortion/Blackmail	18	13	7
Fraud Offenses	122	96	84
Homicide Offenses	1	0	2
Kidnapping/Abduction	8	12	8
Motor Vehicle Theft	74	37	31
Negligent & Justifiable Homicide Offenses	1	0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	3	7	10
Prostitution Offenses	1	1	1
Robbery	9	7	7
Sexual Assault - Forcible	18	14	19
Sexual Assault - Non-Forcible	3	6	0
Stolen Property Offenses	3	8	4
Theft Offenses	351	357	249
Weapon Law Violations	41	45	50
GROUP B OFFENSES	2023	2024	2025
All Other Offenses	279	312	264
Bad Checks	6	3	2
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	3	9	5
Disorderly Conduct	98	106	72
Driving Under the Influence	59	131	129
Family Offenses; Nonviolent	10	14	6
Liquor Law Violations	14	15	26
Trespass of Real Property	31	40	31

NOTABLE CRIME DECREASES

Aggravated Assault	-62%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	-44%
Damage to Property	-49%
Motor Vehicle Theft	-58%
Simple Assault	-25%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	-68%

Officers prioritized weapons offenses and violent crime over the past 2 years. Traffic contacts with a drug and weapons emphasis were increased, additional search warrants for certain crimes went up, and efforts from the department Domestic Violence Team likely contributed to the overall decline in Aggravated Assaults.

Prior to 2023, Fitchburg (and Dane County) experienced a sharp increase in stolen vehicles and thefts from motor vehicles. Since then, department and countywide efforts led to the apprehension and prosecution of a small group of individuals who committed these crimes. Residential burglaries were also closely linked to stolen vehicle offenses.

NOTABLE CRIME INCREASES

Drug Equipment	+127%
Drug/Narcotics	+108%
Forcible Rape	+300%
Pornography/Obscene	+233%

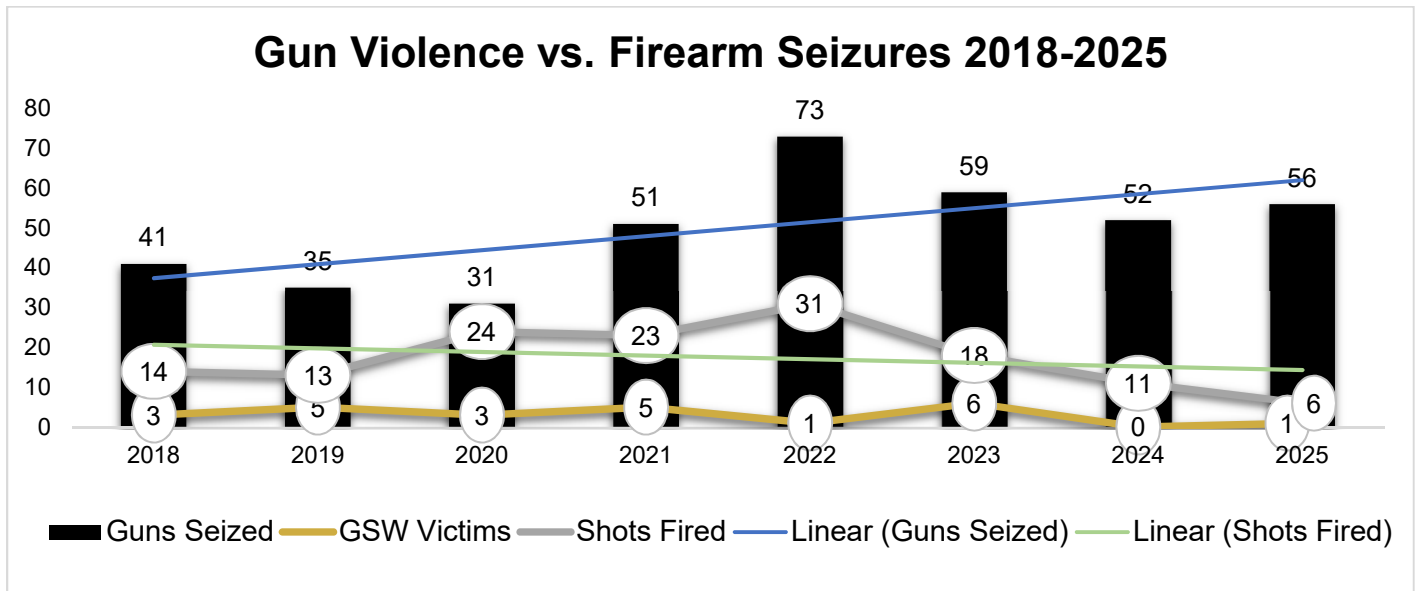
The department increased its focus on traffic enforcement and drug interdiction as one of its strategies in reducing illicit drug activity and associated violent crime and weapons offenses.

The investigations bureau increased its attention on child pornography possession in collaboration with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. This resulted in an increased awareness of illegal pornography crimes.

GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION

In 2021 and 2022, the department recognized an increase in violent crime, particularly gun crime that resulted in shootings and shots fired investigations. Since then, the department has made significant progress in reducing gun violence with its dedication to training, area partnerships, and its processing of firearms and related evidence.

The department expanded its sworn evidence technician team and enhanced its internal firearms processing protocols and analytics. A detective was assigned to the Madison area ATF field office as a Task Force Officer (TFO) which expanded investigative resource capabilities and information sharing. The department continued its dedication in coordinating routine Dane County Gun Violence Reduction Initiative (GVRI) meetings, where local law enforcement agencies share information and strategies aimed to reduce gun violence in our area.



Through deliberate efforts and commitment, officers greatly increased the department’s seizure of illegal firearms. Those efforts correlated to a significant decline in shots fired and shooting incidents, with only one person being shot in the last two years.

The department’s evidence technicians increased their processing of firearms for DNA, fingerprints, and serial number history queries to all illegal firearms it seized. They also collected and entered casings fired by those firearms into NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network), which scans and digitizes images of them similar to a fingerprint. NIBIN then compares these “mechanical fingerprints” against millions of other records to seek a potential match between separate crimes. This database aids investigators in linking different shootings to specific firearms. The team now enters nearly 100% of all seized firearms into NIBIN.

Firearms Seized & Processed

Year	Seized	% Processed
2019	34	0%
2020	29	20%
2021	51	45%
2022	73	75%
2023	59	105%
2024	52	85%
2025	56	95%

NEW POLICE SERVICES FACILITY

COMING APRIL, 2027



The Fitchburg Police Department is currently constructing a new police services facility designed to meet the needs of a growing community and support modern, accredited policing standards. Scheduled for completion in April 2027, the new facility will replace our aging building and significantly expand our operational capacity, increasing from 17,783 square feet to 50,441 square feet. This expansion allows for improved workspaces, training areas, and evidence handling, while ensuring compliance with accreditation requirements and best practices in public safety. The new facility represents a long-term investment in officer wellness, operational efficiency, and enhanced service delivery for the Fitchburg community.



SHOP WITH A COP

Shop with a Cop is one of our most meaningful community outreach events, bringing officers and professional staff together with local children for a positive, fun, and memorable experience. During the event, children are paired one-on-one with members of our department to shop for clothing, toys, and essential items, helping ease financial stress on families while building trust and connection. More than just a shopping trip, Shop with a Cop strengthens relationships, creates lasting memories, and reflects our commitment to supporting youth and families in our community beyond enforcement.



TOP: FBPD members spending meaningful time with children from our community.

BOTTOM LEFT: Support Specialist Silva guiding a student through their holiday shopping experience.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Officer Belson and Officer Guzman-Rodriguez sharing a festive visit with Santa alongside participating children.



COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT

Community Night Out continues to be the Department's flagship community engagement event, built on the principle that community partnerships matter. What began as a small gathering has grown into the largest event of its kind in the local area, drawing record attendance and broad participation from residents, businesses, and public safety partners. The continued success of Community Night Out reflects strong partnerships and a shared commitment to community-based policing. The event has become more than a single evening; it is now an established tradition that reinforces the Department's ongoing investment in community engagement.



Signature elements such as live music, activities for all ages, public safety demonstrations, and recognition of departmental milestones have strengthened the event's identity and broadened its appeal.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

STUFF A SQUAD

In November, the Fitchburg Police Department proudly hosted our annual Stuff a Squad food drive in partnership with the Allied Food Pantry. Squad cars were parked outside local grocery stores and quickly filled with generous donations from community members committed to helping their neighbors. Thanks to the incredible support of the Fitchburg community, we collected more than 2,000 pounds of non-perishable food items and nearly \$300 in monetary contributions. These donations directly support local families facing food insecurity during the holiday season and throughout the winter months. Events like Stuff a Squad highlight the strong partnership between our department and the community we serve, demonstrating that public safety is not only about responding to calls for service, but also about showing up, building connections, and working together to care for one another.



POLICE DEPARTMENT FOOD DRIVE

The Fitchburg Police Department extends our sincere gratitude to everyone who supported this year's food drive. Through the generosity of our residents, local businesses, and community partners, we collected an incredible 3,000 pounds of food for the Allied Food Pantry. This effort reflects more than just donations; it highlights the strength of our community partnerships and the compassion that defines Fitchburg. Every contribution helps ensure local families have access to essential resources, particularly during times of increased need. We are proud to serve a community that consistently steps forward to care for one another. Together, we continue to demonstrate that public safety includes not only protection and enforcement, but also service, connection, and shared responsibility for the well-being of our neighbors.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR

We were proud to participate in this year's Holiday Lights Tour by showcasing a decorated squad car as part of the festivities. Department members joined community partners in creating a festive, welcoming environment for families as they toured the neighborhood displays.

SERVING THE CITY: THE ROLE OF A K9



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Dogs are often able to break down barriers that may exist between officers and citizens and often serve as conversation starters. The primary role of the new K9 will be as an “ambassador” of the department.



OFFICER & CITIZEN SAFETY

The K9 will be trained to search buildings that could potentially contain dangerous suspects, meaning officers may be exposed to less danger. Often the mere presence of a K9 in a dangerous situation can de-escalate the situation, keeping officers and citizens safe.



TRACKING

K9s are able to search for individuals, sometimes even hours later. They can search for dangerous suspects, lost children or missing adults.



EVIDENCE LOCATION

K9s can locate items with human scent on them that may have been discarded by suspects after committing a crime.



NARCOTICS DETECTION

A K9 trained in the detection of narcotics is able to alert to the odor of several different illegal drugs and can help officers locate hidden drugs. With the assistance of a K9, potentially dangerous drugs can be kept off of the street.



K9 Sergeant John Parker and K9 Drago: End of an Era

In the summer of 2017, K9 Officer John Parker and K9 Drago ushered in a new era for the Fitchburg Police Department’s K9 Unit. Building upon the foundation laid by Officer Cesar Lopez and K9 Chase, the department aimed to refine the K9 program with a clear sense of direction and purpose. This new phase focused on defining the primary functions of the unit both in community engagement and patrol operations.

Former Captain Edward Hartwick and Officer Parker (now Sergeant) worked together to establish a formal mission and set of goals for the K9 Unit, aligning its focus with the overall mission of the department. During this process, K9 Drago was carefully selected for both his strong workability and exceptional social temperament.

K9 Drago has proven to be an outstanding asset, fully embodying the mission of the unit through his dual success in community relations and patrol work.

Sergeant Parker and K9 Drago were also instrumental in launching the Madison Area K9s (MAK9) training group, which pioneered innovative deployment strategies for K9s in both patrol and tactical settings. These advancements led to K9 Drago’s full integration into the Fitchburg Special Response Team (SRT) and other tactical units, which was an unprecedented step in the region. This integration significantly enhanced officer safety and contributed to the successful apprehension of dozens of dangerous suspects, while minimizing risk to tactical personnel.

Accolades received by K9 Drago:

- ★ Rookie K9 Team of the Year
- ★ Meritorious K9 Apprehension of the Year
- ★ Meritorious K9 Narcotics Find of the Year
- ★ K9 Team of the Year

After eight and a half years of loyal service to the Fitchburg community, K9 Drago officially retired on August 13, 2025. Drago played an important role in keeping our community safe and was a familiar, trusted presence alongside our officers at countless calls and community events. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication, hard work, and the bond he built with both his handler, Sergeant Johnathan Parker, and the public. As we celebrated Drago's well-earned retirement, we are excited to welcome K9 Chico as the newest member of our department. Chico and his handler, Officer Juan Hinojos, have completed their training and are ready to step into service, continuing the proud tradition of the Fitchburg K9 Program. Chico has already been welcomed by our community, and we're excited to watch him grow into his role within the department.

K9 Officer Juan Hinojos and K9 Chico: Start of a New Era

An extensive selection process was conducted to find a K9 that met the mission needs of the K9 Unit. Ultimately, K9 Chico was chosen and began his pre-training. To ensure a seamless transition with K9 Drago's imminent retirement, K9 Chico received advanced pre-training from the vendor. The primary areas of focus included tactical obedience, gunfire neutrality, tracking, and other specific operational tasks. K9 Chico's natural drive quickly proved to be an asset in learning these skills.

Officer Hinojos began training with his new partner in August in Indiana with K9 Deployed. This intensive three-week program set the new K9 team off in a positive direction. Following this, Officer Hinojos completed a field training process with Sergeant Parker, with support from Black Jack K9, where they worked on foundational skills and the principles of operant conditioning. The team then trained with K9 Officers Eric Disch and Chase Lewis from MPD to further enhance their operational readiness.

Officer Hinojos and K9 Chico began their first shift on September 2, 2025. Officer Hinojos continues to train consistently with the goal of increasing operational readiness and reliability while still deploying regularly. Developing a finely tuned working relationship and achieving consistent performance can take K9 teams years, but Officer Hinojos and K9 Chico are on a trajectory to reach this benchmark in a much shorter time.

The primary goal of the K9 Unit is community relations. The new K9 team has already attended numerous community events, and K9 Chico has proven to be a very social dog. As Officer Hinojos and K9 Chico become even more comfortable in these environments, the department will continue to leverage their strengths to further its community engagement mission.

