

MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2023



A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

PROTECTING AND SERVING SINCE 1851

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Office of the Chief of Police

Anthony R. Kies

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO: Muscatine Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Carol Webb, City Administrator

DATE: January 26, 2024

FROM: Anthony Kies, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Police Department Operational Report, 2023

The Muscatine Police Department submits an annual Operational Report to the Mayor and City Council as part of the requirements of our national accreditation. The purpose of this report is to provide an update of police department activities and to identify the major issues facing the department at this time. In addition, this information will hopefully provide some insight into the future trends or emerging issues which may impact the delivery of police services in some way.



Office of the Chief of Police

Anthony R. Kies

The year 2023 has been a breath of fresh air for our community and our department. We are finally getting back to all of our community policing events and have the ability to push out training to our businesses like we were doing pre-COVID. This contributes to the officer's moral and relationship building in our community with our citizens and police officers.

One of the major issues that our department dealt with in 2022 is officer retention and recruitment. In 2023 we were able to fill all our vacancies and become fully staffed. However, we still remained understaffed on patrol and within our department due to the extensive training that a new hire has to go through. This is a direct reflection of the hard work put in by many of our men and women who have covered tireless hours and training to get all officers through the Field Training Program. In February 2024 we will have all officers solo and operational.

We continue to challenge our supervisors and officers to come up with ways to implement problem oriented and community policing strategies. We provide them time to invent ways to bring the community together through whatever means they see fit. They have come up with some ideas, such as Code Blue and Crime Free Multi-Housing that have been very successful in the community.

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the department. The officers continue to be proactive within the community. Our officers are dedicated to the improvement of our community and upholding City of Muscatine values. The citizens of Muscatine should be very proud of the job the officers do on a daily basis. This year comes with an exceptional challenge as we have over 23,500 calls for service which we haven't seen since 2012. Patrol was able to still keep moral high and secure the safety of our city all while being understaffed and answering a near record year for calls for service.

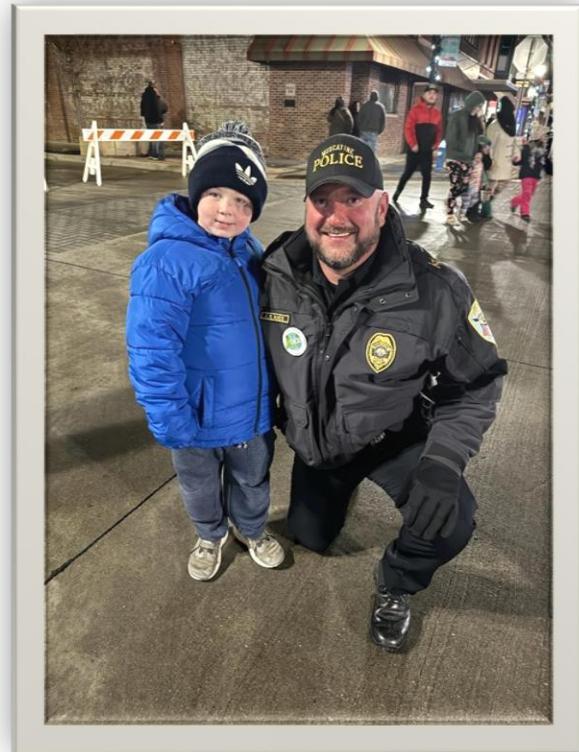
The most important part of our challenges to knowing that they can all be overcome. Challenges are meant to be interesting and addressed. The problem is thinking that the challenge is a problem. Since I can remember and documented

records for Muscatine Police Department that date back to 2008 show that we have had a retention challenge. This challenge of retaining existing police officers is still in the face of many regional and local law enforcement agencies. Not to mention our challenge of recruiting qualified staff to back-fill positions created by officers who have left. In 2008, the City of Muscatine created a new compensation package, mentoring program, schedule changes and being able to address problems as a patrol level. Now 15 years later we have been able to see that our retention issues have improved, there have been no union grievances and moral continues to advance creating a great work environment. We have also been able to secure another mental health grant and implement annual mental health evaluations to ensure the health of our officers.

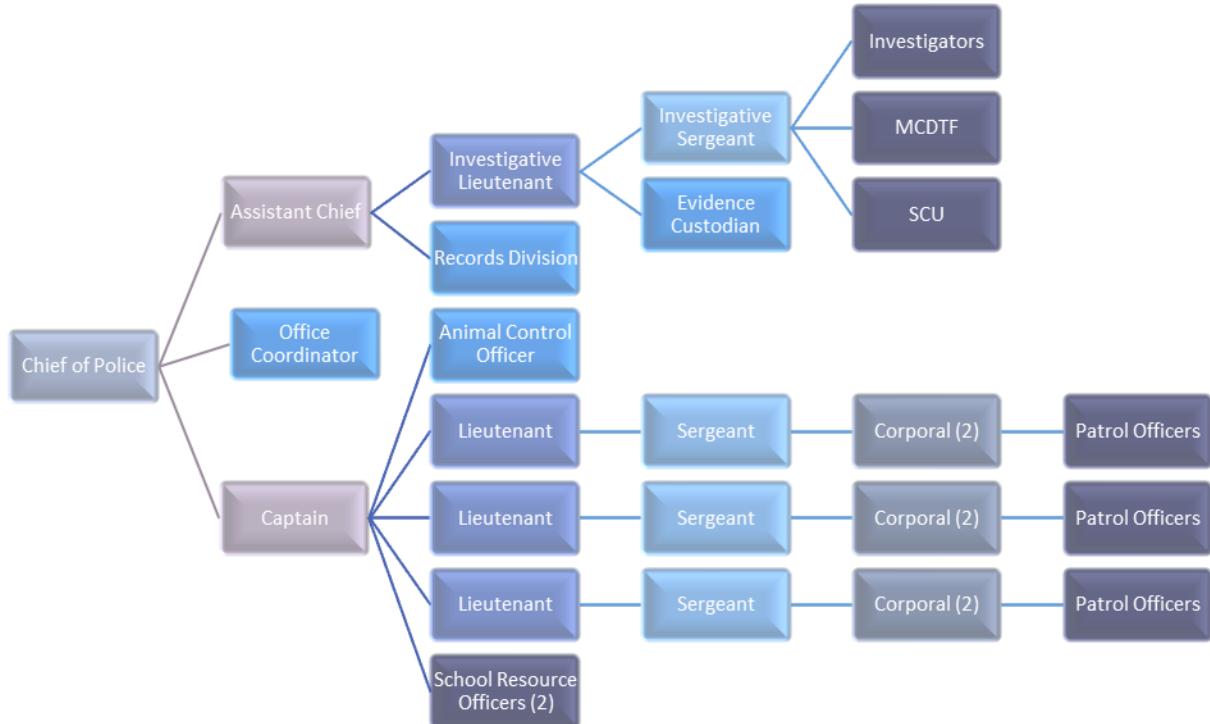
Credit for the preparation, development and gathering of the information contained herein, goes to many people. It is the combined effort of administrative, supervision, line-officers and clerical personnel. It is our hope that this information is as useful to others as it is to us as we look at the issues currently facing the department and our community as a whole.

With that, I would like to thank you for supporting our department throughout the year. As always, I hope you will find our summary of 2023 interesting and informative. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns you have to better our service to the City of Muscatine.

Anthony R. Kies, Chief of Police



Muscatine Police Department Organizational Structure



Total # Sworn Officers: 41
 Total # Officer for Patrol: 25
 # of Investigators: 7
 # of Off Site Officers: 2
 # of Administrators: 3

ASSISTANT CHIEF

- *Public Information Officer
- *Training
- *ATE Administration
- *Grants
- *Professional Standards
- *Planning

CAPTAIN

- *K9 Administration
- *Special Events
- *Budget
- *Field Training
- *Grants

INVESTIGATIVE LIEUTENANT

- *Accreditation Administration
- *DART
- *Evidence Administration

Every organization needs structure. Perhaps the best definition of a police organization is that it is a system of consciously coordinated activities, with a common goal, divisions of labor, coordination of effort, and most especially in our domain, a hierarchy of authority. No other department of city government has more of a need for such a hierarchy, than the police. Million-dollar jury awards are routinely leveled against cities all over the nation for things that police do and shouldn't have, or do not do, and should have.

The structure of this organization plays a very important role. Not just in authority and responsibility, but in active “risk management.” To the casual observer, an organizational chart may look like a genealogical attempt gone wrong. In the law enforcement environment, it helps to explain how the organization functions. An organizational chart reveals four basic dimensions of the organization’s structure:

1. Hierarchy of Authority (who reports to whom).
2. Division of labors (what group performs what function).
3. Span of control (how many people are supervised).
4. Line and Staff position (who is doing what).

The theory behind the dimensions of this organizational structure demonstrates the basic tenants of our operational theory, as illustrated below:

1. Division of Labor (people become proficient when they perform standardized tasks over and over again).
2. Hierarchy of Authority (a formal chain of command ensures coordination, accountability and responsibility).
3. Rules and regulations (carefully formulated and strictly enforced rules assure some behavior, and prohibit other behaviors).
4. Administrative Impersonality (personnel decisions such as hiring, promotional eligibility, and firing are undertaken in-part by an authority (Civil Service Commission) other than the organization’s chief executive officer).

The Muscatine Police Department has historically followed a traditional organizational model, much like most other law enforcement agencies. For the most part, law enforcement has embraced such an organizational structure because law enforcement has traditionally functioned best through a coordination of effort, much like the military. Coordination of effort is achieved through formulation and enforcement of policies, rules, and regulations. Our chain of command is nothing

more than a control mechanism dedicated to making sure the right people do the right things at the right time.

Patrol Division

The Muscatine Police Department Patrol Division operates as a 24-hour, seven day a week service to our community. The Patrol Division is often referred to as the backbone of any police department and is often the largest division, and most visible symbol of law enforcement in the community. Its primary responsibility is to:

- provide uniformed law enforcement service to the community
- respond to calls for service
- deter crime by highly visible police presence
- investigate criminal activity

The patrol division account for the largest share of department personnel, accounting for one captain, three lieutenants, three sergeants and twenty-two patrol officers. In calendar year 2023, approximately (23,548) calls for service were handled by the entire department, approximately 2552 more calls than the previous year.

The patrol division was faced with and overcame several challenges in 2023. Personnel shortages fuel overtime costs forcing fewer personnel to work more hours so adequate coverage could be provided. With a combination of team work, dedication and commitment to safety, the department maintained staffing requirements by making schedule adjustments and supplementing personnel from other divisions. This action allowed for significant reductions in overtime costs.

The Patrol Division met several predetermined goals in 2023. One primary goal was community involvement. Uniformed personnel are the most visible representation of public safety; therefore, community involvement remains a top priority. In 2023, patrol officers engaged in thousands of “park and walks”, hundreds of business checks and countless hours of sheer day to day involvement with Muscatine citizens.

A second goal of the patrol division was to provide the highest level of safety to the community through traffic enforcement, targeted patrol and enforcement of municipal infractions. In 2023, approximately 3275 traffic citations were issued, 1387 arrests were made while 1440 municipal parking tickets were issued.

Concerning targeted patrol, an estimated 330 hours were dedicated toward seizure of illegal drugs, confiscation of illegal firearms and gang suppression.

The health and welfare of our workforce is a top priority and is believed to be vitally important toward maintaining community effectiveness and the ability to serve. In 2023, the Department reached a milestone developing the first ever, peer support team. Fifteen police officers, three firefighters, one MUSCOM dispatcher and one police chaplain joined together forming a coalition who provide mental health support to first responders.

With an established peer support team, in 2023 the department successfully made application to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and was subsequently awarded approximately \$200,000. Funding will be used for officer mental health check-ups, marriage counseling and overtime expenses. An emotional support dog was also obtained in the 2023. "Fergus", a black lab, certified therapy dog is available to all first responders. Fergus is often seen in at public events and currently is assigned to second shift with his handler, Officer Samantha Wheeler.



Projects and Programs

Code Blue was a project initiated and implemented in 2021. Code Blue was designed and proposed by a patrol member in an effort to recognize families within the community who suffer the sudden and unexpected loss of a family member due to suicide, car accident, violent crime or any other reasons that department members would find appropriate.

The Code Blue coordinator begins the process with the collection of donations from department members. The proceeds support the cost of meals for the bereaved family, while extending the agency's emotional support. The Code Blue program was not utilized to a great extent in 2023 as only one Code Blue was triggered. While

this may seem disheartening, the reality is that there was not an overabundance of tragedies within our community that needed the Code Blue response.

Specialty Assignments

The Patrol Division supports several specialty assignments. These assignments include School Resource Officers (SRO), the K-9 Unit, Bike Patrol Unit, Muscatine Evidence Technician (M.E.T.) program and the Muscatine Special Response Team (MSORT) to name a few.

School Resource Officers

This year has our School Resource Officers have had significant involvement with several multi-disciplinary teams throughout the Muscatine School District. One such team is a behavior student success team. This team is made up of staff members committed to decreasing student's negative behavior. Our behavior team addresses student tardiness, attendance skipping, write ups and much more.

Junior High Arrests

- Drug Possession - 6
- Assault - 10
- Harassment - 1
- Vape/Tobacco - 7

High School Arrests

- Drug Possession - 17
- Assault - 6
- Disorderly - 1
- Vape/Tobacco - 40

District Wide Truancy Arrests - 40



In 2023, SRO's completed ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training for all of the 7 elementary schools, middle schools and the high school. Para-educators at Susan Clark Junior High and Saints Mary Mathias School were also trained in the protocol. In 2024, SRO's will be contacting each school to conduct scenarios-based training including both ALICE drills and possibly the Run, Hide, Fight method.

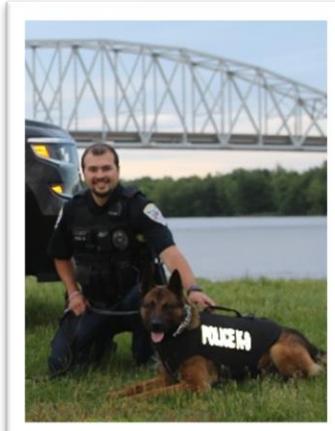
SRO continue to support the "Skittles group" with Middle School students. Visits were made at MCSA,

Salvation Army, Musser Public Library, Public Health, MCC and other locations. This group has been operational for approximately 7 years and has been a success in building relationships with our students and the community. Transportation and adult volunteers continue to be hurdles facing the success of the group, but the program continues with available resources.

Special recognition should be given to Officer Whitni Peña, who volunteers a significant amount of her time by giving back to the community. Specifically, Officer Peña volunteers her time on the MCI (Muscatine Charities Inc) board, given presentations at the Community Y as well as New Horizons of Muscatine. Officer Peña is one of the most prolific leaders for the Department's "Shop with a Cop" wherein selected students are given a cost-free shopping experience at Christmas.

K-9

The Muscatine K-9 Unit operated with two dogs & handlers (K-9) teams for 2023. Corporal Griffin was selected in 2021 with his partner K-9 Dino. Officer Matthew Wilkinson was selected in 2022 with his partner K-9 Dexter. Both K-9 teams operated fully in 2023.



Having two teams, allows the department to provide K-9 coverage over a broad range of hours, as the K-9 teams are assigned to opposite shifts. Dual purpose K-9s have the following capabilities: narcotic detection, tracking, apprehension, article searches, and crowd control. K-9 teams are subject to callouts should an event occur which requires their skill set. This would occur when a K-9 is not already on duty.



Members of the K-9 Unit work closely with the department's Patrol Unit, Street Crimes Unit as well as outside agencies such as the Muscatine County and the Iowa State Patrol. The K-9 Unit has assisted the Muscatine Community School District with student locker searches, as well as other school districts within

the area. Training is a critical component for effective K-9 employment. The department's K-9 teams have been attending up to 16 hours of monthly training, where they collaborate with other K-9 teams locally, and from the QC area. Training with a group allows them to network, work through any training issues, and gain insight into other training styles and tactics.

In 2023, the K-9 teams were utilized on 123 calls for service, an increase of approximately 28% from the previous year. The K-9 teams had a combination of three (3) no bite apprehensions and seized various prescription pills and numerous pieces of drug paraphernalia. Below are specific quantities of items seized by the K-9 teams in 2023:

- 395 grams Cannabis
- 290 grams Methamphetamine
- 1.2 grams Heroin
- 6 firearms
- \$21,479 currency



Bike Patrol

The MPD bike patrol participated in several events in 2023, most notable was RAGBRAI. Other than this event, bike patrol members are assigned to patrol the city's bike paths and problem areas, during the shift overlaps. Bike patrol members also concentrate their efforts toward special events, such as the 4th of July parade, Muscatine Riverfront activities and targeted patrol projects within the City.

Muscatine Evidence Technician Program

The Muscatine Evidence Technician (MET) program is comprised of a small group of officers who have received specialized training in photography, as well as the collection and processing of evidence. They work on an on-call basis throughout the year and are relied upon to process all major crime scenes. These scenes included everything from burglaries to homicide investigations. In addition to being subject to call outs, these officers also help process scenes that are encountered while they are working shift.

In 2023, Evidence technicians were needed on 20 different cases to process a crime scene or evidence, either on-shift or responding to a call out. During these cases, officers handled a variety of scenes to include burglaries, stolen vehicles, murder, shootings, and many others. Officers spent approximately 46 hours on scenes and 33 hours processing evidence. MET spent approximately 78 hours related to scene documentation, evidence collection, and evidence processing.

MET members are all assigned lab time, which is located in the basement of the PSB. Here they are responsible for processing any items of evidence that were brought in by MET or officers outside of the MET team.

The Capture BT Superglue chamber is fully operational and has produced positive results. The superglue chamber was used a total of 9 times, printing 29 items. Photos of these latent prints were sent to the Division of Criminal Investigation Lab – Fingerprint Division. These submissions resulted in 2 cases with positive identifications, 2 cases with latent fingerprints resulting in no matches, and 3 cases with latent fingerprints still pending results.

At the start of the year, the MET was operating with five (5) team members. MPD was unable to add any additional members to the team in 2023. The MET has set a goal to add one (1) to two (2) additional members in 2024.

The MET officers undergo continuous training to keep their skills sharp and updated. Two members of MET attending a 16-hour refresher Photography training at Mobile Team IV in Moline, IL. This accounts for 16 hours of continued training.

Animal Control Officer (ACO)



A previously set goal for the ACO program was to develop and implement a new pet licensing program for the City of Muscatine in 2023. After many hours of preparation, a pet licensing program (PetData) will become operational in mid- January (2024). PetData allows city residence the opportunity to register their dog or cat online. Likewise, out of city residence can register, online, for access to the city's dog park.

In 2023 there were approximately 635 ACO calls for service. Out of this call volume, 66 ordinance violations were issued and 36 written warnings were given. The City of Fruitland accounted for an additional 9 calls for

service. The ACO was involved in 3 animal neglect cases and 2 animal abuse cases which resulted in a total of 51 criminal charges being filed in District Court. ACO additionally assisted the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) in one wildlife animal abuse investigation.

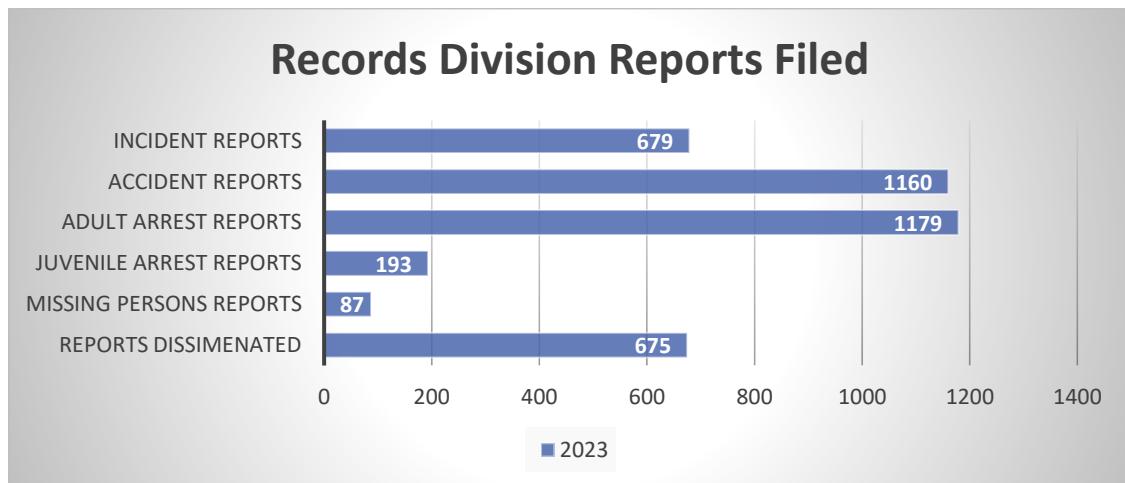
Animal Control transported 142 cats and 65 dogs to the humane society. In addition to transportation of animals to be reunited with their owners as well as disposal of deceased animals, the ACO transported a total of 301 animals in 2023, which was a decrease of 71 from the previous year.

In 2023, eight search warrants were executed involving animal rescue. The aforementioned investigations are costly with both time and funding. Investigations requiring search warrant execution has doubled from previous years and prior to 2022, no warrants connected to animal rescue cases were recorded. Out of the aforementioned eight investigations, either animal neglect or animal abuse criminal charges have been filed in each incident.

Records Division

The Records Division is the central depository for the agency's documents. This department consists of one full-time clerk and one part time clerk that receive all the documentation regarding police services. These documents include incident reports, arrest reports, warrant returns, traffic citations, vehicle accident reports and other miscellaneous reports. The Records Division is the point of contact for citizens and businesses needing copies of various police reports.

Iowa Code mandates that all law enforcement agencies report monthly crime data to the Iowa Department of Public Safety's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. This reporting is done via the State of Iowa's ICRIME database. Incidents and arrests submitted to ICRIME are published the Iowa UCR program and also shared with the FBI for inclusion in national publications. Agencies must achieve certification to have access to the ICRIME database. This requires an agency to have a crime data entry error rate of less than 4% for three consecutive months. Due to the exceptional attention to detail given by our full-time records clerk, the department has achieved a zero percent error rate for the 2023 reporting period. This is an outstanding accomplishment for our records staff.



In addition to handling the department reporting, our Records Division is also the main contact for the Clerk of Court and the County Attorney's Office. Records clerks electronically file traffic and criminal charges daily to meet court deadlines. They are also responsible for compiling digital evidence, such as squad and body worn camera video, for case files. They are tasked with recording officer court notices and various subpoenas as well.

Investigations Division

The Muscatine Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division is comprised of three different units each focusing on specific disciplines. The Major Crimes Unit (MCU) consists of (3) investigators, the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) consists of (2) investigators, and the Muscatine County Drug Task Force (DTF) consists of (2) investigators who are assigned to the Muscatine County Joint Drug Task Force.

There is a Lieutenant and Sergeant of Investigations that share the responsibility of overseeing the daily operations of these units. They also administer the department's ATE, Accreditation and Evidence Management programs.

Major Crimes Unit (MCU)

The MCU is primarily responsible for investigating a wide range of criminal behavior, including property crimes, financial crimes, sexual and violence crimes. In 2023, the MCU was assigned 155 investigations. The MCU totaled 61 arrests or requests for arrest warrants in 2023 and served approximately 48 search warrants. The MCU had an 88% case clearance rate.

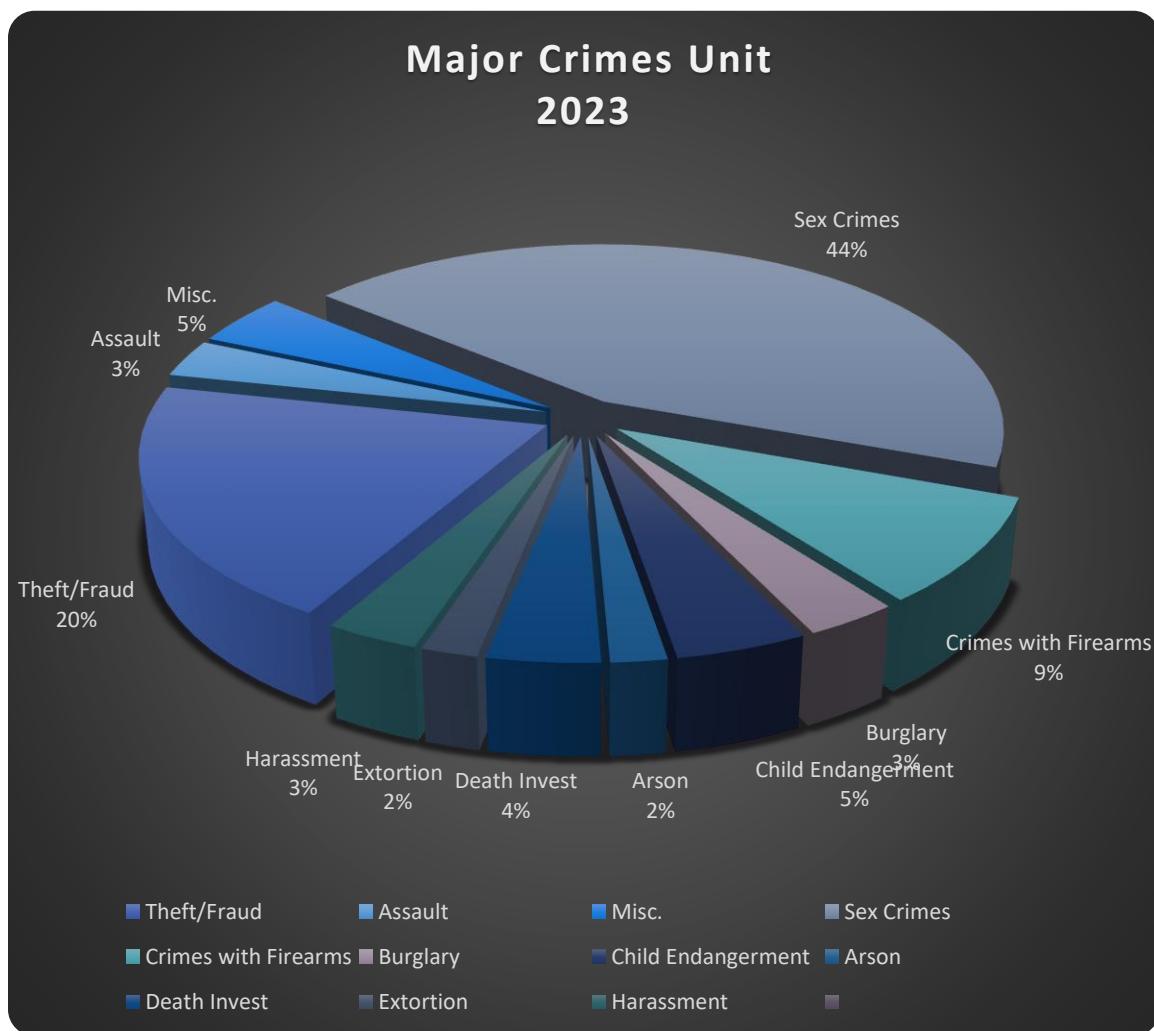
In July, 2023, Muscatine had its first homicide in over five (5) years. The MCU took the lead in this investigation but it was truly an all hands on deck event. As a result of the MCU's investigation, the suspect was quickly identified, arrested, and charged with homicide, all within hours of committing the crime.

A high percentage (45%) of criminal investigations conducted this year were sex related crimes. These crimes include Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Assault, Lascivious Acts, Indecent Exposure, and Enticing a Minor. Along with investigating these types of crimes, detectives make sure the victims know what victim resources are available to them through Family Resources, the Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA), and the Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center (CPC).

The MCU maintains equipment and software that is capable of examining mobile devices, such as cell phones and tablets. The examination also includes analysis of the data for purposes of furthering active investigations and eventual criminal prosecution. This analysis is conducted by the MCU for all appropriate cases with

the Muscatine Police Department, but is also designed to support surrounding agencies in a joint effort. In 2023, fifty-two (52) Electronic devices were examined, and the data analyzed and prepared. This process involves working jointly with surrounding law enforcement agencies, where a search warrant was presented to examine the items. The MCU assisted the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Muscatine County Drug Task Force, Louisa County Sheriff's Office, Cedar County Sheriff's Office, Tipton Police Department, Columbus Junction Police Department, Iowa DNR, West Liberty, and the Iowa Department of Transportation with this task.

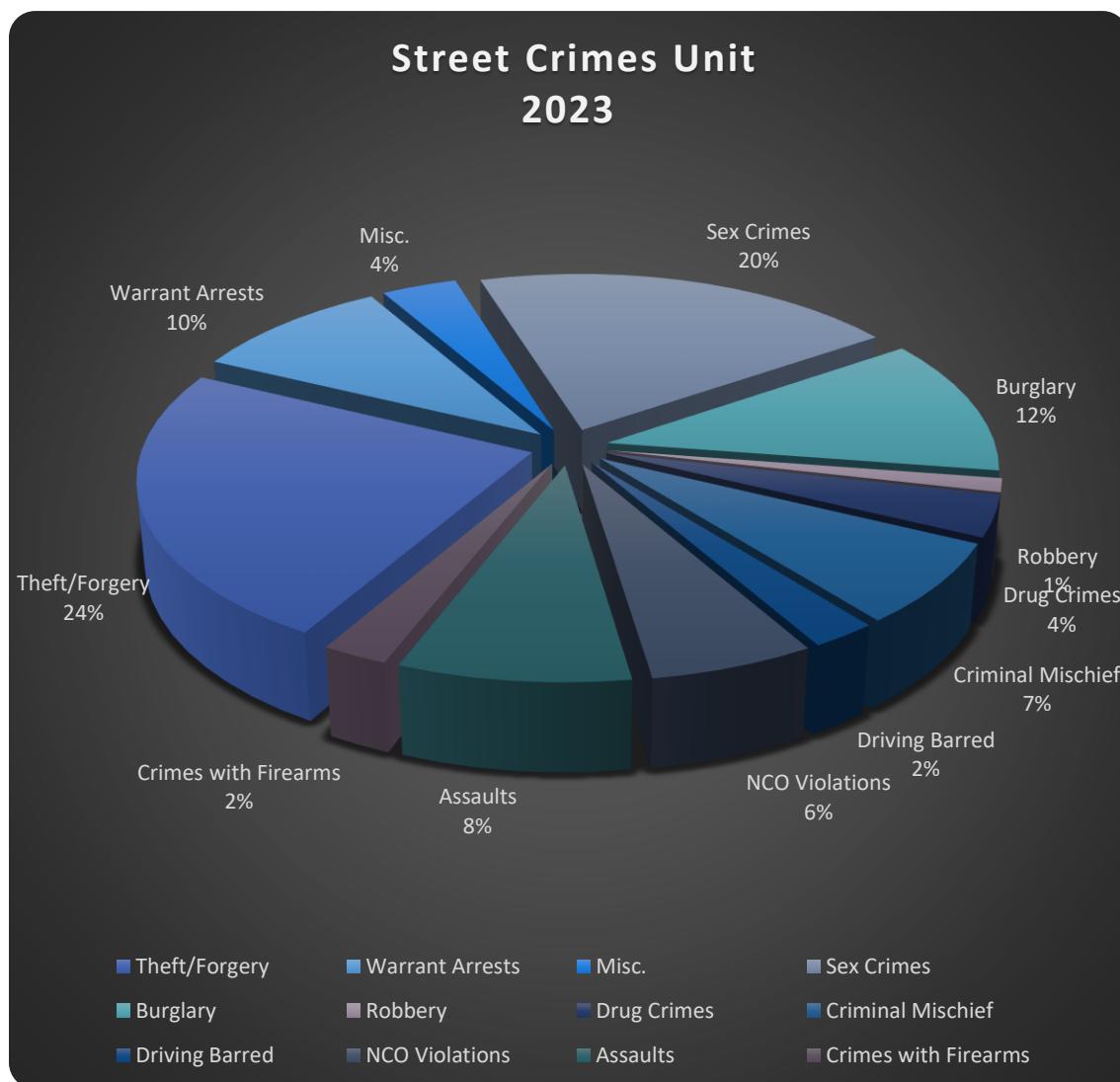
The MCU offered support on thirty-one (31) search warrants through neighboring agencies in 2023.



Street Crimes Unit (SCU)

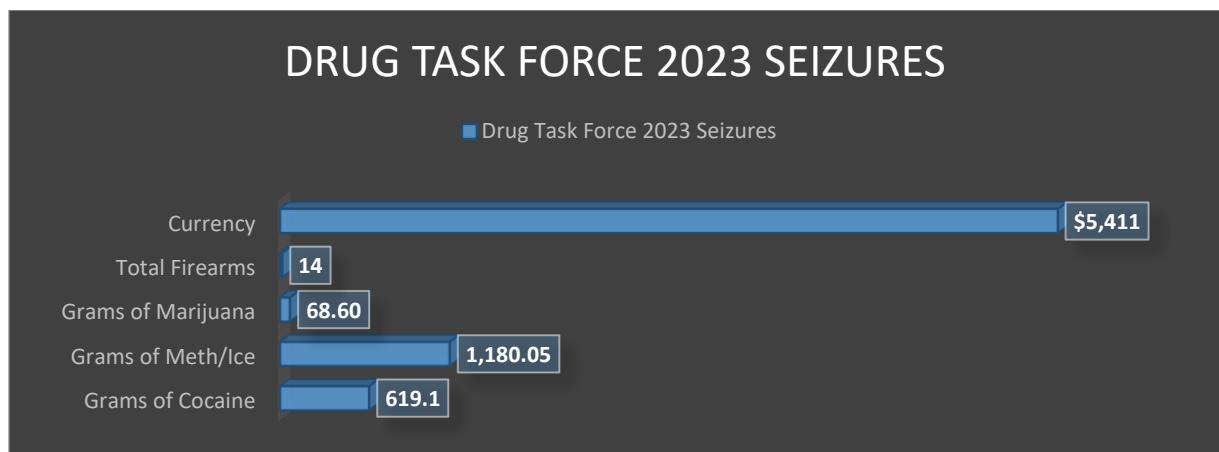
The SCU works primarily as a two-person team and are assigned cases that originate in the patrol division. The unit is focused on criminal gang behavior in the community, including gathering and managing intelligence of known gang affiliates and their associates. A lot of their investigations are concentrated on criminal behavior involving weapons, drugs, and violence against persons.

Due to staffing levels within the patrol division, the SCU was not fully staffed during 2023. Only one investigator was assigned to the unit. In 2023, the SCU was assigned or self-generated 84 cases, made 42 arrests, and had 18 arrest warrant requests. The SCU had an 85% case clearance rate.



Muscatine County Drug Task Force (DTF)

The Muscatine County DTF functions as a joint multi-jurisdictional task force that covers Muscatine County, Cedar County, and Louisa County. The MCDTF also continuously assists several outside agencies, including Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Johnson County, and agencies in the Quad Cities area. The MCDTF also works closely with agencies from the Federal Government and participates regularly in federally indictable offenses. The Muscatine Police Department has two full time investigators assigned to this task force.



Muscatine County Drug Task Force Statistics (Calendar Year 2023)

Arrests	37
Search Warrants	28

Drug Seizure

Cocaine	619.1 grams (1.37 pounds)
Methamphetamine/ICE	1,180.05 grams (2.6 pounds)
Marijuana	68.6 grams
Fentanyl	455 pills (excess of 30 grams)

Other Seizures

Firearms	14
Currency	\$5.411
Total Operations	183

Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) includes five (5) or more persons per DTO:

Identified	9
Disrupted	8

Evidence Division

The position of Evidence Custodian, is a specialist position appointed by the Chief of Police and supervised by the Investigative Lieutenant. This position involves the receipt, recording, custody, security, and disposition of all lost property, evidence, and contraband, coming within the custody of the department. The Muscatine Police Department's Evidence Custodian has been to a 40 hour Evidence Technician (ET) training. Our current Evidence Custodian is the department's first Evidence Custodian who has been to ET training. The training has qualified our Evidence Custodian to process evidence for fingerprints. In the past, an officer who is an ET would have to come in on overtime to process fingerprints or come off of patrol to do it.

In 2023, there was (2,548) items that were received for evidence, while (1,287) items, from older cases, were released.

Community Oriented Policing (COP)

Community Policing projects have become a cornerstone of proactive law enforcement efforts in Muscatine since the early 1990's. Since that time, the Muscatine Police Department has operated or been involved in numerous COP projects and programs allowing for greater communication and interaction between citizens and law enforcement.

Junior Police Academy

In June of 2023, the Muscatine Police Department, in cooperation with Muscatine Community College held the 3rd annual Junior Police Academy. Students from the

following high schools attended the 5 day (30 hour) Junior Police Academy: Muscatine, L&M, Wilton, and Columbus. The goal of the program is to foster a strong relationship with area high school students, who may be interested in a law enforcement career. One of the goals is to mentor young people living in the Muscatine area towards remaining in the area and potentially seek employment with the Muscatine Police Department.



Junior Police Academy participants are exposed to real time, hands on training in the following areas: OWI

investigations, Mock Trial, Physical Fitness, MSORT, Crime Scene, K-9, Defensive Tactics, De-escalation / Force simulator, and Stop the bleed medical training. Select graduate(s) of the academy are eligible for two separate academic scholarships, one provided by the Muscatine Community College while the second provided by the Muscatine Police Officer's Association. The department's Junior Police Academy graduated seventeen (17) students in 2023.



Crime Free Housing Initiative

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program is a crime prevention initiative designed to reduce crime, illegal narcotics, as well as organized gang activity on apartment/rental properties. It was successfully developed through the Mesa Arizona Police Department in 1992 and has become an independent organization serving over 2,000 cities in 48 United States as well as locations in Canada, Latin America, and South Africa. The anticipated benefits are reduced police calls for service, a safer/more stable renter resident base, and reduced exposure to civil liability.

The Program consists of a three-phase process. Phase I is comprised of an 8-hour training for rental property management/owners. Participants are trained in the best practices to creating a crime-free environment within their properties ranging from selection of tenants (Crime-Free Lease Addendum) through eviction of

problematic renters as well as learning crime prevention techniques through environmental design. Phase II consists of a survey by a peace officer certified in the Program to ensure the participant property is enacting crime reduction measures that are based upon the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principle. The official conducting the survey will evaluate compliance as well as assist property managers in improving areas of concern noted. Phase III is achieved when the property management in conjunction with law enforcement hosts a social event with residents that focuses on aspects of crime prevention within the facility in order to enhance education and gain the trust of tenants. Once all three phases have been documented as completed, the applicant property achieves full certification and may utilize trademarks of the Program in advertising/signage.

In May 2023, Phase I training was completed with approximately 15 property managers becoming certified. Since that time, 8 properties have advanced to Phase II certification while 2 have advanced to Phase III.

The following data has been collected demonstrating the success of the Program:

- Arrests directly resulting from property manager intelligence: 5
- Eviction of tenant for violation of the Crime-Free Addendum: 15
- Calls for service reduction at Program properties: 98

It is anticipated even more property owners will follow in 2024, increasing the experienced success in 2023.

National Night Out

In 2023 the Muscatine Police Department participated in its first ever National Night Out. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that

promotes police community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. This event takes place across all 50 states on the first Tuesday in August. Events include such things as block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community activities with safety demonstrations and visits from emergency personnel.



National Night Out event was held in the area of Taylor Park and Franklin School. We wanted to highlight the work that the city has done to revamp Taylor Park and make use of the open grass field and parking lot of Franklin School. This was quite the undertaking but with the help of many community organizations and businesses, it was a huge success and there was nothing but positive feedback from those involved directly with the event to the neighbors who lived near the event location.

As we continue to build our relationships with private and community partners, we were able to provide at no cost to community participants a free meal, Hawaiian shaved ice, a dunk tank, several bounce houses/games, a live D.J., a bicycle rodeo, free bicycle helmets, a bicycle give-a-way, various games and activities, emergency vehicle displays, gift card raffles, and MedForce One (life flight helicopter) made a landing in the open field next to Franklin School! The Muscatine Police Department is invested in this community and in the relationships that must be developed and maintained in order for us to be successful in all our endeavors. National Night Out 2023 was a great opportunity to build on what has already been established and helped in building new connections within our community.



Park & Walk



The Muscatine Police Department continued its “Park & Walk” program during 2023. This project is designed to allow officers an opportunity to get out of their squad car (foot patrol) and interact with the community on a non-enforcement related basis. Officers are encouraged to spend 30 minutes each shift somewhere in their assigned beat area, visiting places like schools, downtown business district, parks, and housing complexes.

Though the primary goal of this project is to create opportunities for personal interaction between officers and the community, it has the added benefit of becoming a deterrent for criminal activity as well. This year we had impromptu football games and ice cream at the Muscatine Art Center to name a few fun activities enjoyed during park and walks. In 2023, approximately 2100 individual foot patrol (Park & Walks) were conducted by MPD personnel.



Coffee with a Cop



During 2023 citizens of Muscatine were invited to participate in “Coffee with a Cop”. The program gives people the opportunity to speak with local officers in a relaxed atmosphere. This was hosted once a month in different local businesses. Topics discussed ranged from specific neighborhood concerns, traffic issues and praise of officer’s actions.

Other Events & Opportunities



The department continues to utilize its social media presence to recruit new hire applicants, seek community help toward solving active criminal cases and promote the Department as a whole. The MPD Facebook page netted approximately 2.2 million pages reached in 2023. On 80,723 separate times, persons visited the Muscatine Police Department Facebook page resulting in 1,141 “likes”, a 27.5% increase from 2022. The Department Facebook page currently has an estimated 8,100 followers.

Positive exposure on social media remains very cost effective. As our citizens continue to rely on social media for information, maintaining a very proactive

approach on this platform is essential. By maintaining this presence, this will provide increased opportunities to reach and inform a large number of civilians while keeping overhead costs of advertisement low.



Muscatine Police Officers Association

Though not under the direct purview of the department, the community policing efforts of the Muscatine Police Officers Association has added greatly to the cause. The Muscatine Police Officers Association (MPOA) is a local affiliate of the Iowa State Police Association. The MPOA was founded in 1934 and is one of the oldest such association in Iowa. The MPOA is a fraternal/charitable organization within

the Muscatine Police Department and membership is open to all sworn personnel. The MPOA engages in a variety of fundraising events during the year which bring great positive attention to the department and to the goals of the MPOA.

The charitable efforts of the MPOA deal mainly with the youth of Muscatine and the surrounding area. Through programs like “Shop with a Cop” the MPOA seeks to foster good relations with those that will one day become citizens of our community and to improve the department’s image within the community.

The MPOA sponsors both boys and girls sports activities through Muscatine Parks & Rec, the Youth Sports Foundation and other such organizations. The MPOA is also the primary contributor to the Police Explorer program and the Junior Police Academy. However, the MPOA’s oldest and most recognized activity is the “Shop with a Cop” program which began in 1991.

“Shop with a Cop” works like this. Selected kids are taken through Walmart and were allowed to spend \$150 on themselves and family members. In 2023, approximately 100 kids participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program. This effort could not be realized without many area individuals and businesses donating to the program.



Law Enforcement Accreditation

Law Enforcement Accreditation began with the creation of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) in 1979. The Commission was created through the joint efforts of the major law enforcement executive associations:

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- Police Executive Research Forum
- National Sheriff's Association

The purpose of CALEA's accreditation program is to improve the delivery of public safety services. Their stated goals are:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities
- Formalize essential management procedures
- Establish fair and non-discriminating personnel practices
- Improve service delivery
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency

The Muscatine Police Department received its initial accreditation award in December of 2000. Since that time, we have been awarded reaccredited status in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2019 and 2023. The department recently completed

CALEA's recertification process in November of 2023, which extends our national accreditation status for the next four (4) years. The Muscatine Police Department is the longest standing nationally accredited agency in the State of Iowa.



Being an accredited agency puts the police department in a much better position to defend against any lawsuits. The department is able to show that it is complying

with national standards of operation and not merely standards developed by the police department. Accreditation aids in creating better trained and professional personnel, as it requires the department to stay current on national trends and recent case law pertaining to law enforcement practices.

Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT)

The Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT) is a specialized unit consisting of individuals who have received additional training in weapons handling and tactical incidents. The MSORT consists of long rifle marksmen (snipers), tactical operators, tactical emergency medical personnel, (TEMS) and negotiators. The number of members on MSORT fluctuates depending on manpower, school availability, and interest. Assignment to MSORT is completely voluntary and officers wishing to be considered for the team must go through an application process.

MSORT was previously named, Muscatine SRT, and was officially organized and conducted its first operations in 2001. Since that time, it has been used for the execution of high risk search warrants, to contain and/or engage armed barricaded subjects who have demonstrated a propensity for violence and in a joint hostage rescue mission with the state tactical team. On several occasions it worked jointly with the US Secret Service to provide site security for a visiting dignitary.

January 1, 2018 the Muscatine Police Department and the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office joined forces and created a multi-jurisdictional team currently known as MSORT. This replaced the SRT in both agencies and then MSORT was comprised of Muscatine Police Department, Muscatine County, West Liberty, Durant and Louisa County, Cedar County, Tipton and West Branch. All agencies entered a MOU and a board was created to oversee the operations of MSORT which is run by a Team Commander. The Commander answers to the board who meet quarterly to keep them updated and discuss future operations, expenses and training. The board consists of Muscatine Police Chief, Muscatine County Sheriff and Muscatine County Attorney. In 2023 there was a leadership change and a new Team Commander was appointed due to the founding Team Commander being appointed as the Chief of Police for the Muscatine Police Department.

MSORT is a team that consists currently of 32 members. This number can vary due to personnel transfers. Of note, in early 2021 the Assistant Commander was elected Sheriff of Muscatine County, two members moved on to other employment and other positions were filled. In 2023 there was a leadership change. A new Team Commander was appointed due to the founding Team Commander being appointed as the Chief of Police for the Muscatine Police Department. Most recently 3 enter members were added as well as 3 TEMS (tactical medics). We continue to reach out to other area agencies. The critical number that MSORT must sustain to meet NTOA standards as a qualified tier 2 team is 19 members excluding TEMS and Negotiations, and we are currently at 20 members in this area.

MSORT is currently under NTOA standards for training time, but strives to meet as many standards as possible. For the 2024 training year, MSORT will increase training hours to 176, up from 168 hours of training, having (10) 2-8hr training months and (2) 8 hr. training months. MSORT was only able to send four members to the week-long National Tactical Officer's Association (NTOA) conference in Aurora, CO in October. MSORT snipers conducted 96 hours of training and negotiators conducted 32 hours of training. The continued goal is to provide MSORT members with additional training hours, including outside instruction, which has been accomplished each year since MSORT's inception.

As stated above MSORT members participate in 176+ hours of training per year. Members train at handling various scenarios which will cover everything from high risk search warrants, barricade/hostage situations to active shooter situations. The MSORT also trains in a variety of environments and learns tactics associated with tubular assaults, vehicle assaults, and residential assaults as well as commercial and industrial assaults. This training will often involve the use of role players which helps make the training as realistic as possible. In the past, the MSORT has conducted training for the entire patrol division on how to handle an active shooter situation. This department wide training also included training on the incident command system and the department's all hazards plan. The MSORT has worked with several local companies and the Muscatine Community School District, GPC, Monsanto and HNI regarding preparedness for such events and trained in their facilities using their employees/students. In 2023 MSORT provided Run/Hide/Fight training to several hundred individuals at area businesses. This effort aims at education to business employees and providing continuity of response to are law enforcement and EMS providers.

MSORT continues to utilize the armored BATT vehicle and ambulance for transport and safety of its members and the public. The BATT was showcased at the Muscatine Police Department's open house, as well as during a local National Night Out event.

MSORT has been faced with the challenge of replacing the entire team's body armor which is due to expire in 2024. This is a large purchase, with the goal of obtaining 30 body armor systems, to outfit the entire team and provide for any future growth. Current body armor systems are available with 10 year warranty periods, as opposed to the current 5 year warranty, which will hopefully spread out the cost of this purchase and provide a longer service life to this critical team component. Grants have been applied for during the 2023 year with no monies being awarded to-date.

Operationally, MSORT was called out on 4 occasions in 2023 and provided negotiation assistance on 1 other. These call outs were for a drug search/arrest warrant, search/arrest warrants for barricaded subjects (one served for Davenport PD) and a barricaded subject related to a sexual abuse/kidnapping case out of Illinois. The following is a result of the operations conducted in 2023: 5 felony arrests, 2 mental health committals, 6.1 grams of methamphetamine seized, 3.1 grams of marijuana seized, 3 firearms seized, recovery of a stolen vehicle, and \$4,063 US currency seized.

The MSORT will continue to strive for improvement and is always looking for new ways in which the team can better serve the citizens of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Cedar County and Louisa County. The MSORT will continue to seek out training opportunities which offer new tactics and equipment that will help improve our efficiency and expand on our ability to handle the situations the team is called upon for.



Field Training Program

Muscatine Police Department's Field Training program has been extremely busy this year. Our current training roster consisted of 11 Field Training Officers, several of which who have been dedicated to the program for many years. As this can be a tremendous undertaking for the FTO's, the decision was made to add an additional 3 training officers in order to allow newer officers the opportunity to take on this exciting and difficult specialty assignment.

In 2023, MPD had 5 officers successfully complete the field training program. This was accomplished through the hard work of not only the probationary officers but also 10 or more FTO's assigned to the probationary officers. Currently, two officers remain in training and as of the end of 2023, they were both entering the final step of their training experience. Both officers are on track to successfully complete the program by the end of January (2024).

WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

Extra duty assignments have become a necessity within the Muscatine Police Department. Many non-probationary and probationary officers alike within the department are involved in an extra duty expertise, with many officers being committed to more than one area. Their dedication to the City of Muscatine in their perspective areas forces them to work additional hours outside of the traditional forty-hour work week. Some of the assignments include:

- Field Training Officers
- Firearms Instructors
- Muscatine Special Operations Response Team
- Hostage Negotiators
- Crime Scene Technicians
- Defensive Tactics Instructors
- Defensive Driving Instructors
- Chemical Munitions Instructors
- K-9 Handler
- School Resource Officers
- Taser Instructors
- ABLE Instructor

These listed assignments are a vital part of the effectiveness of the Muscatine Police Department. We are fortunate to have police officers who are dedicated to these programs and realize the vital part they play in offering a professionally versatile and well-rounded law enforcement service to the citizens of Muscatine.

Along with these additional duties comes the requirement of additional training to maintain certifications, as well as continuing education requirements, as many of these areas are ever-changing. The officers involved in these assignments are required to keep themselves current in new techniques being developed in things such as Defensive Tactics, Crime Scene Technician, Firearms Instruction, etc. Officers also need to keep up with the new case law that is developed in their areas of expertise to help protect the City, the officers they train and themselves from unnecessary liability. The training involved in maintaining these Instructor Certifications make up much of the Departments training budget.

Some additional assignments are needed to keep pace with the growing demand from the public to deal effectively with identity thefts, exploitation of minors (preying on minors via the internet) and other cybercrimes such as these.

Conclusions

In conclusion this has been a year of significant changes. The City of Muscatine appointed a new Chief. There was also several other promotions that took place to include Assistant Chief, Patrol Captain, Lieutenant and a Sergeant. With multiple members taking on new responsibilities, Administration was able to work professionally as a team to learn new roles to include a balanced budget. We continue to make retention a priority and currently have a fully staffed roster of 41 sworn officers.

The Muscatine Police Department continues to maintain our accredited status. Accreditation has helped our officers understand what is expected of them in relation to policy and procedure. The officers should be proud of this accomplishment. Accreditation would not have happened without their hard work and dedication. Accreditation helps us to maintain higher standards than most departments and hold each other accountable.

Five-Year Goals for the Police Department

1. Maintain our accredited status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).
2. Continue working towards a department demographics that closely mirrors the community.
3. A training facility and improvements for the Police Department.
4. To continue to foster positive relationships within our community through community policing efforts
5. To keep up with current technology and provide the officers the best equipment to make their jobs easier.

As 2023 ended, the Muscatine Police Department is proud to have a strong commitment to the community we serve. We consider ourselves partners with the community, prioritizing public safety and crime reduction through community policing.



**SAFETY – INTEGRITY – RESPECT – WELLNESS - INNOVATION
PROFESSIONALISM - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY - EXCELLENCE**