

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

DEAR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

2025 was a busy year for the Windom Police Department. There were two homicide investigations, implementation of new body cameras, and the hiring of a new officer that required much time to complete.

We had two homicides that occurred in Windom. One took place just minutes before 2025 began and the other occurred in July. These types of crimes are challenging and require manpower and thorough investigation. Our staff responded to these challenges admirably.

Our agency began using Axon body and squad cameras in January of 2025. This was an upgrade in technology, as officers can have language translation available to them via their body camera. A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) assisted transcription and A.I assisted report writing is also available to our staff through this system.



Officer Bryan Macario was hired in June. He is a graduate of Minnesota West Community College with a degree in Law Enforcement. He is also a graduate of Windom Area Schools. We are glad to have him with us.

I would like to thank the Windom Mayor and City Council for their support. I also thank SRO Dana Wallace, Records Clerk Deb Nesseth and Assistant Chief Devin Kopperud for their work in creating this report.

Sincerely,
Scott Peterson ,
Chief of Police



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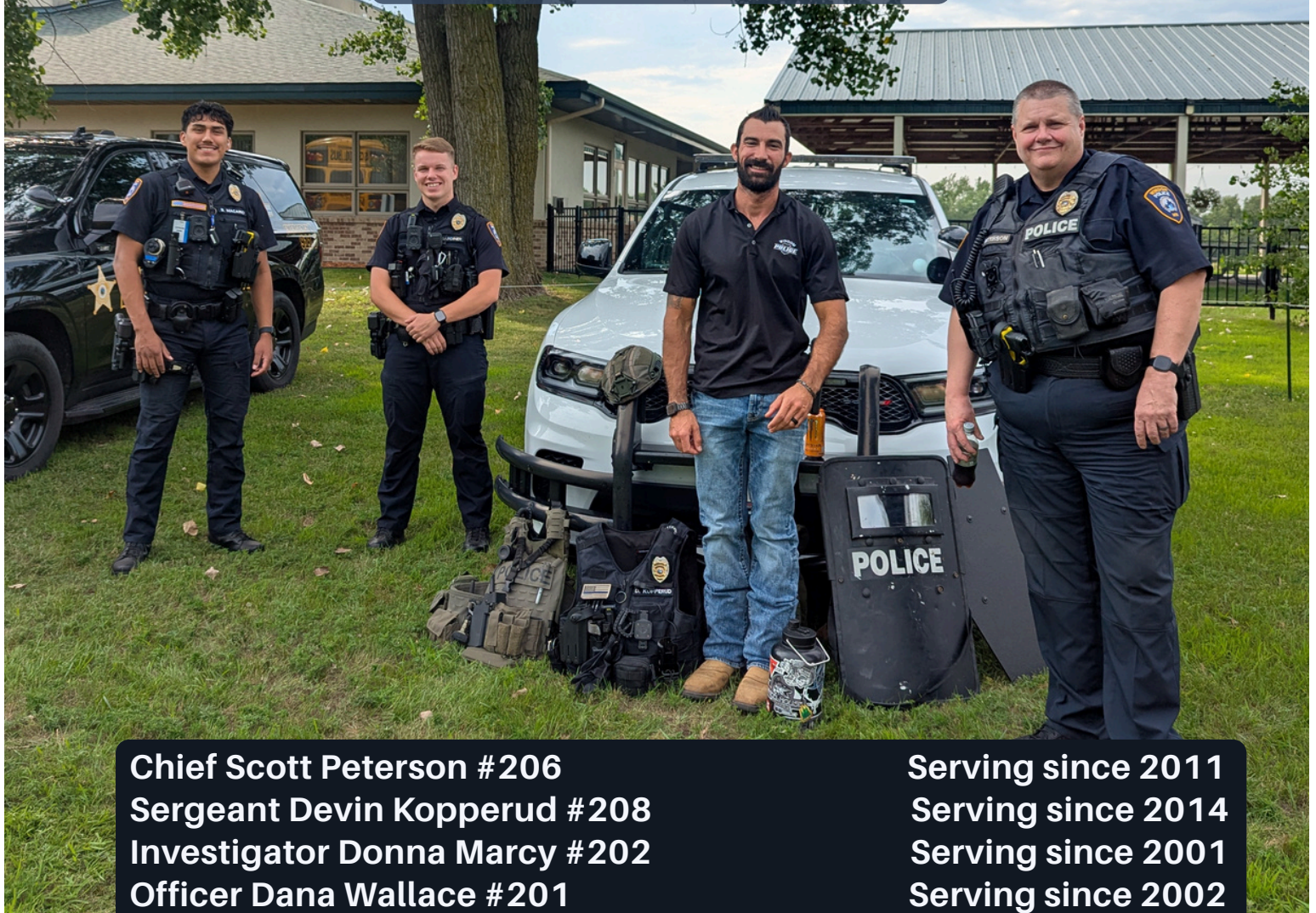
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The mission of the Windom Police Department is to provide quality police service to our community by promoting meaningful police/citizen interaction and community partnerships.

We place an emphasis on public education, problem solving and actively responding to community concerns.

We commit to the values of integrity, impartiality, and service in the performance of our duties.



Chief Scott Peterson #206

Sergeant Devin Kopperud #208

Investigator Donna Marcy #202

Officer Dana Wallace #201

Officer Isaak Paulson #203

Officer Austin Lasky #210

Officer Andrew Kinnetz #207

Officer Daniel Gardiner #205

Officer Ethan Palmer #209

Officer Bryan Macario #204

Records Clerk Deb Neseth

Serving since 2011

Serving since 2014

Serving since 2001

Serving since 2002

Serving since 2020

Serving since 2022

Serving since 2023

Serving since 2024

Serving since 2024

Serving since 2025

Serving since 1986

INVESTIGATOR DONNA MARCY

Well, I am sure happy to put 2025 in the rear-view mirror! What a year...

I'm super grateful to my co-workers. We all work together and make an incredible team. As an old proverb reads: "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link". If you substitute the word team for chain I am proud to say we all make a very strong team! The Citizen newspaper does a great job keeping up with the local crimes, but here's a recap. The year started with a murder. Technically, the murder occurred just before midnight making it a 2024 murder... BUT the investigation and trial were in 2025. The suspect, a 27-year-old male was charged with 2 counts of 2nd degree murder (1 count with intent, 1 count without intent while committing a felony), 1 count of 2nd degree assault and 3 counts of threats of violence. A jury trial took place in June. The suspect was found guilty of 1 count of 2nd degree murder (without intent while committing a felony), and 1 count of threats of violence. He is currently serving a 180-month sentence in a State Correctional Facility.

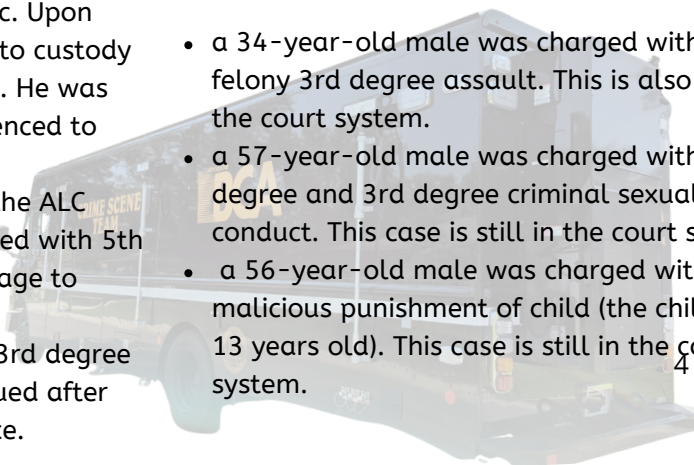
CASE HIGHLIGHTS

- a 23-year-old male was arrested and charged with 5th degree criminal sexual conduct and false imprisonment. The suspect later was found guilty and sentenced to a 14-month stay at a State Correctional Facility and 3 years of probation.
- a 26-year-old male was arrested on 5th degree assault charges after punching a bar tender in the face. This suspect was found guilty and placed on probation.
- a 41-year-old male was arrested and charged with solicitation of a child (14-year-old). This case is still moving through the court system.
- Officers responded to a call of a domestic. Upon arrival a 30-year-old male was taken into custody for domestic assault and 3rd degree DWI. He was found guilty of 3rd degree DWI and sentenced to probation.
- Officers responded to a call for help at the ALC school. A 15-year-old female was charged with 5th degree assault, 4th degree criminal damage to property and obstructing legal process.
- a 43-year-old-male was charged with 3rd degree criminal sexual conduct. A warrant is issued after he did not appear in court for his sentence.

- I testified in a jury trial regarding a 2021 case. The case involved the criminal neglect of a vulnerable adult. A 37-year-old female was found guilty of criminal neglect and is currently serving a 48-month sentence in a State Correctional Facility.
- a 38-year-old female was taken into custody and charged with trespass, obstructing legal process and 4th degree assault. (4th degree assault is due to an assault on Police Officers). This is still in the court system.
- a 38-year-old male was arrested on 2 counts of 2nd degree murder (1 count with intent, 1 count without intent while committing a felony) and 1 count of 1st degree Burglary. This is still in the court system.
- a 52-year-old male was charged with 2nd degree DUI, driving after revocation and criminal vehicular operation with bodily injury following a crash at the Hwy 60/62 intersection.
- a 26-year-old male was charged with 1st degree Burglary and receiving stolen property

This is the same male that was placed on probation for assault in January. This male also has pending vehicle theft and financial card fraud charge. Part of the frustration Law Enforcements Officers feel when the public believes we are not doing our job. Often times, the court system is very far behind, or cases are dismissed or charges reduced which allow criminals to remain in the public and continue their crimes.

- a 34-year-old male was charged with a felony 3rd degree assault. This is also still in the court system.
- a 57-year-old male was charged with 1st degree and 3rd degree criminal sexual conduct. This case is still in the court system.
- a 56-year-old male was charged with malicious punishment of child (the child was 13 years old). This case is still in the court system.



DEVIN KOPPERUD

SERGEANT

The year 2025 has certainly been one for the books for the Windom Police Dept. between the multiple high profile calls this year to all the tech that we have recently received and implemented.



In late spring of 2025, the Windom Police Department was able to update our old camera systems both in car and Body Worn with Axon, which is currently the same company that provides our tasers. This decision was able to enhance functionality and integration with other devices. Example, if a gun or taser comes out of the holster. Body Worn Cameras activate, no need to press a button or mess with a setting.

Along with this, we were able to further expand on the technical advantages within the system, now our Body Worn Cameras can translate, similar to google translate. Currently they offer 50+ languages.

They also offer transcripts to assist with Officers' report writing and to take it a step further, it can generate AI assisted reports. Which the Officer must read and approve prior to uploading into out records system. Currently this is only done for informational reports. However, this saves the officer time which leads to better service for the community.



As always, it has been a pleasure to serve the City of Windom and thank you for your continued support.

~Devin Kopperud
Assistant Chief



ANDREW KINNETZ

OFFICER

2025 brought many great things to the Police Department. We introduced Officer Bryan Macario Rios to the ranks. Officer Macario Rios is a Windom native, and I believe he has potential for a great career as a Police Officer. We also were introduced to new technology with Axon body worn cameras, dash cameras, and new Taser 10s. These are the newest technologies provided by Axon that I believe increases officer safety and prevents serious injury to suspects. I also got some more hands on training with the Taser 10s, as I recertified as an Axon Taser instructor back in July.



Unfortunately, 2025, also brought tragedy with two murders striking our community. I am proud of my partners here in Windom, as well as our partners in the Cottonwood County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Mountain Lake Police Department, Minnesota State Patrol, MN BCA, County Attorney's Office, and Attorney General's Office, for helping us bring order to chaos. We were able to convict one suspect of 2nd Degree Murder and are preparing for another jury trial, later this year. My heart goes out to the families affected in these tragedies and I know it does not bring much closure, but I am proud to help these families seek justice.

I look forward to what 2026 has to bring. I felt that 2025, as tragic as it was, also educated me further and helped me benefit myself to be a better Police Officer and provide better service to the City of Windom.



We were also given a grant from Windom Area Health to have me participate in crisis intervention courses. After a 6-day training at the Hennepin County Public Safety Facility, I was certified as an instructor by the Barbara Schneider Foundation. Throughout this process, I have met many amazing individuals in the world of mental health. I was introduced to Unspoken Truth, a non-profit organization that works in the area. I am looking forward to working with them more in the coming year and hopefully providing mental health awareness events in the City of Windom.

I also was able to represent the Police Department and was able to work at the **Minnesota State Fair** this last summer as a part-time Police Officer. This was an incredible experience, as I met so many people from across the state and some locals from the area. I got to experience a lot and made a lot of new friends that work for different law enforcement agencies. This has come to a great benefit, as I have been able to contact these new friends and have been given guidance and resources for things that will benefit me and the department.



DAN GARDINER

OFFICER

2025 was a memorable year for unfortunate reasons, but also for many more good reasons. Looking back at the year, it is always encouraging that we have a good department with well trained and competent officers, and we have a community that supports us, allowing us to do our jobs to the best of our abilities with the best equipment.

Along with a supportive community of citizens, the Windom Police Department also works alongside other agencies that are willing to assist us when needed. The Cottonwood County Sheriff's Office, Mountain Lake Police Department, and Minnesota State Patrol all are very willing to assist Windom when necessary and we are always more than willing to assist them when called upon. Living in a rural area, this is necessary because there is often one officer on for each department at a time and sometimes less.

Thank you to the community for the support and I am also grateful to the surrounding agencies that assist when needed. It's a huge blessing to have another year in the books with a department that encourages all us officers to continue to get better at the job we are doing.

A training that I was able to go to was the **P.I.T. training**. P.I.T. can stand for Precision Immobilization Technique or Pursuit Intervention Technique. This is considered to be one of the most fun training officers get to do. If unfamiliar, P.I.T. is a maneuver where the front side bumper of the police car makes contact with the rear bumper on the side a few inches behind the wheel well of the fleeing vehicle. The police car then pushes the rear bumper causing the vehicle to spin out. In the training, instructors taught how to do this in a controlled manner, to the point where we would be able to get the vehicle to stop at a cone that we chose prior to performing to the P.I.T. This training had officers from all over the state, and it was great getting to meet many of them. Getting to spin a car around from the "officer's" point of view is definitely fun, but getting to be the "fleeing" car and get spun out was, in my opinion, more fun!



A notable case for 2025 happened when I was assisting a Cottonwood county deputy. The deputy dealt with an individual who had ended up in the ditch, stuck in snow, in the northern part of the county. While the deputy was dealing with the driver, he arrested him for suspicion of DWI. While transporting him back to the jail, the individual started to get rowdy. The deputy had to pull over multiple times to get the individual properly restrained and settled so that the transport was done safely. He was joined by a Minnesota State Trooper. I met the deputy and trooper and followed him to the jail. A block away from the jail, the individual was able to kick out the window on the back of the deputy's squad car.

After immediately pulling over, we decided to take the individual out of the deputy's squad car and move him to my squad car because my squad car had metal bars protecting the windows. When we walked to open the door, the individual had half of his body out of the window and was yelling at us. He then decided to dive headfirst out of the window. Thankfully, the deputy and I were able to catch him before he hit the ground. We walked him to my squad car and placed him in the car.



Once at the jail, the rowdy behavior of the individual did not come to an end. He ended up spending some quality time in the restraint chair until he was willing to settle down and go through the booking process with the jailer. Although this individual was resisting everything we wanted him to do, with the aid of all the officers involved, we were able to achieve our objective of getting him to the jail, and no one was injured besides a few scratches,

AUSTIN LASKY

OFFICER

In the beginning of 2025, I attended a two weeklong, training to become a Drug Recognition Evaluator. Becoming a Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE) is a specialized process that requires both extensive training and field experience. DREs are law enforcement officers trained to identify drivers under the influence of seven drugs categories (other than alcohol). This process involves a unique set of skills, a rigorous training program, and ongoing certification

The DRE training program itself is a rigorous, two week-long school of classroom work. With numerous tests and exams, this classroom course is a must-pass before moving on to the final certification phase. **The final certification phase is a trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where we spend two days using the skills, we have learned on live subjects that are actually under the influence of drugs.** These take place in a controlled environment in a place on Kensington Avenue. All subjects are offered a rehabilitation facility/treatment if they volunteer to be a subject for us to evaluate. We must do a minimum of 12 evaluations out there and then pass a final written exam before the Officer is certified.

During the training, officers must complete practical exercises, where they evaluate subjects [often volunteers or actors] in controlled environments, under the supervision of experienced DRE instructors.

These mock scenarios help officers develop their skills in assessing drug impairment under real-world conditions.

They will also engage in field training by evaluating suspects on patrol with experienced DREs, further honing their skills in a real-world setting.

After completing the training, I was able to utilize this and assisted several agencies since, including the Windom Police Dept and the Cottonwood County Sheriff and Mt. Lake PD. I have also been to Winnebago, MN to assist their officer with an evaluation.

This has been a benefit to not only myself, but to the department in recognizing drug impaired drivers. DRE's play a crucial role in the courts, and DWI process. **The goal of the DRE is to narrow down what drug(s) a person is under the influence of.** This also allows for arresting officer to put the DRE's opinion and information in a search warrant which is then sent to a judge for their review. I can conduct the full evaluation in about 50-60 minutes and get back out on patrol. Officer's within the department will call and ask for help or advice from me if they suspect someone may be under the influence of drugs and operating a motor vehicle.



Steps in a DRE Evaluation

1. Breath Alcohol Test
2. Interview of the Officer
3. Preliminary Examination
4. Eye Examination
5. Divided Attention Test
6. Vital Signs
7. Pupil Dialation in Darkroom
8. Subjects Statements and History
9. Opinion of the Evaluator
10. Toxicology
11. Final Report



ISAAK PAULSON

As a Windom Area high school graduate, I am grateful to continue my 6th year of service for the City of Windom. At the end of the 2025 I was promoted to the Night Sergeant Position which began the 1st of the year.

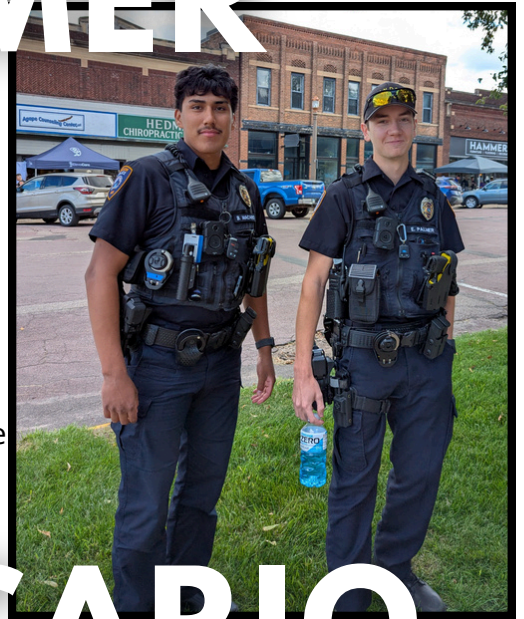
I am proud to be serving the City of Windom and the Windom Police Department, knowing that my efforts contributed to safety which gave my work a purpose. Each challenge presented an opportunity to learn, improve, and strengthen my leadership skills.

Overall, this year reinforced why I value my job with the Windom Police Department. The combination of leadership, responsibility, teamwork made the role fulfilling and encouraged me to continue striving for excellence in the year ahead. I would like to thank you, the great community of Windom, your support makes our job worth



ETHAN PALMER

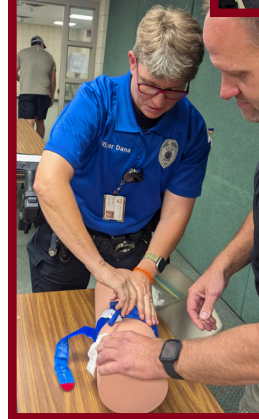
2025 was a fun and rewarding year that flew by quickly. Being with the police department for a year and a half has greatly improved my skills and overall knowledge in law enforcement. Throughout the year, I handled many new types of calls and assisted with a wide variety of situations that I did not encounter in 2024. These experiences helped me get to know the community better and allowed me to become a more productive and efficient officer. I hope that 2026 provides similar opportunities for continued growth and improvement. I am grateful to work alongside a great group of individuals at the police department and truly enjoy coming to work each day, as they continue to help me develop professionally.



BRYAN MACARIO

As the year wraps up, I reflect on my time with the Windom Police Department. I started working here on June 9th and have truly enjoyed serving the community I grew up in. Windom has great people and a strong sense of community, which makes it a great place to work and serve. Being here has given me valuable experience early in my law enforcement career. I've learned a lot, worked alongside a solid group of officers and community members, and gained hands-on experience responding to a variety of calls. One thing I really appreciate about our department is that every officer brings their own strengths and qualities to the job. I've learned by working alongside them and have been able to take pieces from each officer's experience and skills. I've also been proud to be part of the effort to crack down on the burglaries the city dealt with last year. Seeing the results of teamwork between officers and the community has been very rewarding. I'm looking forward to continuing to learn, grow, and do my part to help keep Windom a great place to live.

In partnership from Windom Area Health, officers trained in the **Stop the Bleed** training. This involved interactive training, with fake blood, to learn how to control bleeding of traumatic injuries.



In 2025, we upgraded from TASER 7 to TASER 10 Conductive Energy Weapons. The new **TASER 10** has a maximum range of 45 feet and 10 probes, featuring individually targeted probes and any-probe connect. These new capabilities significantly increase accuracy and effectiveness, decreasing the likelihood of escalation to lethal force.

Annual Shoot/Don't Shoot training and Active Shooter Training. The Nerf gun was used to simulate an active shooter.







DEBRA NESSETH

We have had another notable year. The unfortunate crimes of two homicides within 7 months in the City of Windom makes for an immense amount of work for the Dept. and one of the most unparalleled in my almost 40 years working in the Police Dept.

Even with our criminal offense numbers down in 2025, with the crimes being more serious in nature, it does not seem like crime was down.

We are past the five-year mark of the Windom Police Department Records using the MN National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). All the officers are using the reporting to meet the requirements by the BCA, and the data informs criminal justice partners with information that is helpful.



Juvenile E-Petition use because mandatory in January 2026. All juvenile delinquency, juvenile petty offense, juvenile traffic offense and juvenile extradition cases initiated by petition must be filed electronically using the Juvenile e-Petitions module with the BCA e-charging application. This will be a welcome transition.

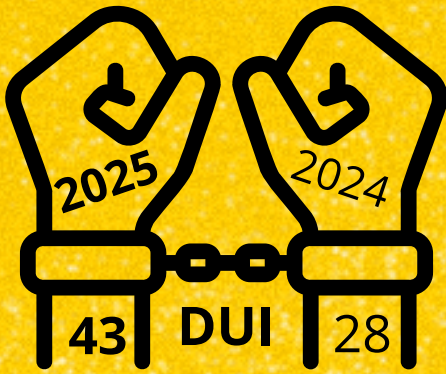
The BCA has expunged more than one million records in compliance with the Clean Slate Act. Local agencies are not required to expunge records within their own systems. However, our agency must refer to the Clean Slate Expungement Report prior to releasing any records. Ten states have enacted automatic expungement, and several states are considering legislation.

I want to end my letter with a few thank you's including thanking the Windom Police Officers for their hard work they do every day to keep the City of Windom safe. Also, I would like to thank Cottonwood County as they authorized the return of a long-time former working partner at the Cottonwood County Attorney's Office. Our office works closely with the County Attorney's Office and the return of County Attorney Nick Anderson in 2025 was welcomed by our department. Lastly, I would like to thank Ron Schramel, who has been the Assistant City Attorney, acting City Attorney and the City Attorney for the City of Windom. Ron Schramel was formally approved in January 2013, as Windom's City Attorney. Ron is stepping away from his duties as City Attorney on April 1st this year. We appreciate the level of trust and assistance he provided to our department and administration. His strong work ethic and high standards garnered respect and he will be missed.

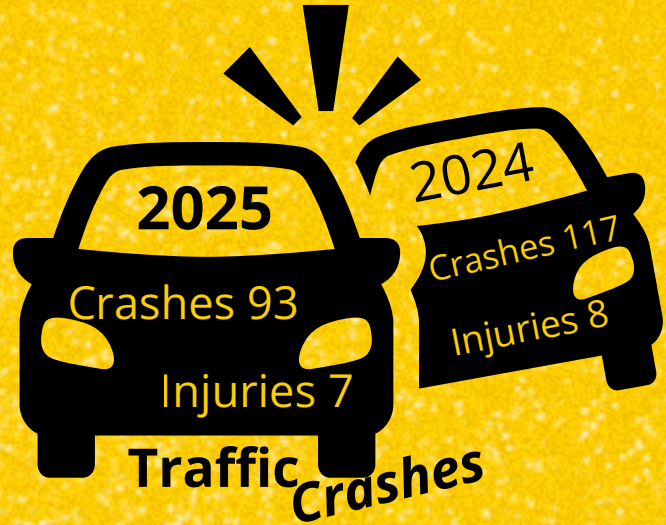
Debra Nesseth, Legal Secretary



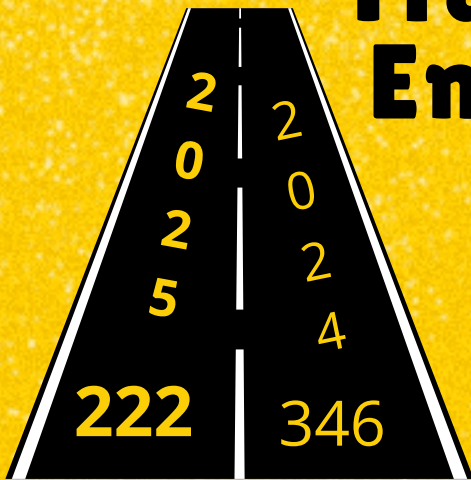
Photo credit Windom Citizen



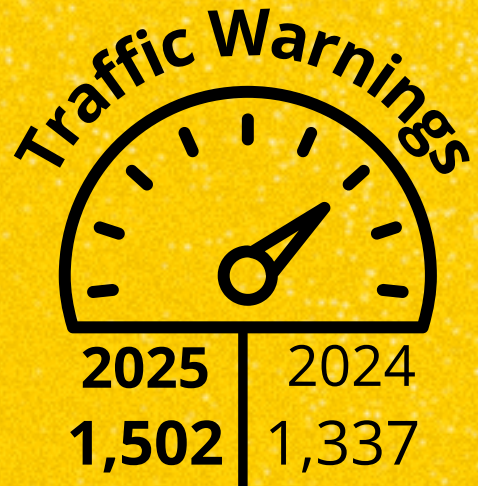
Arrests
 Misdemeanor DUI's 18
 Gross/Felony DUI's 25
 Underage Drink and Drive 1



Traffic Enforcement Stats



Traffic Tickets



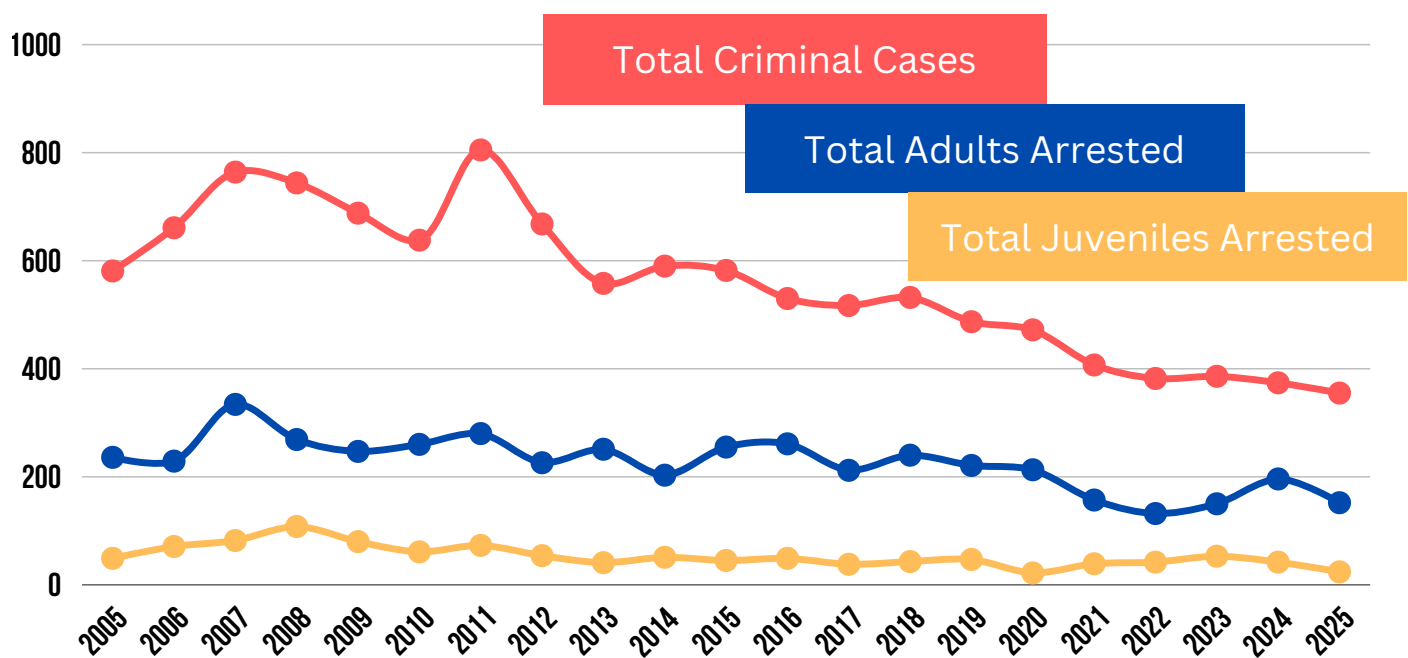
Fire Department Shout Out



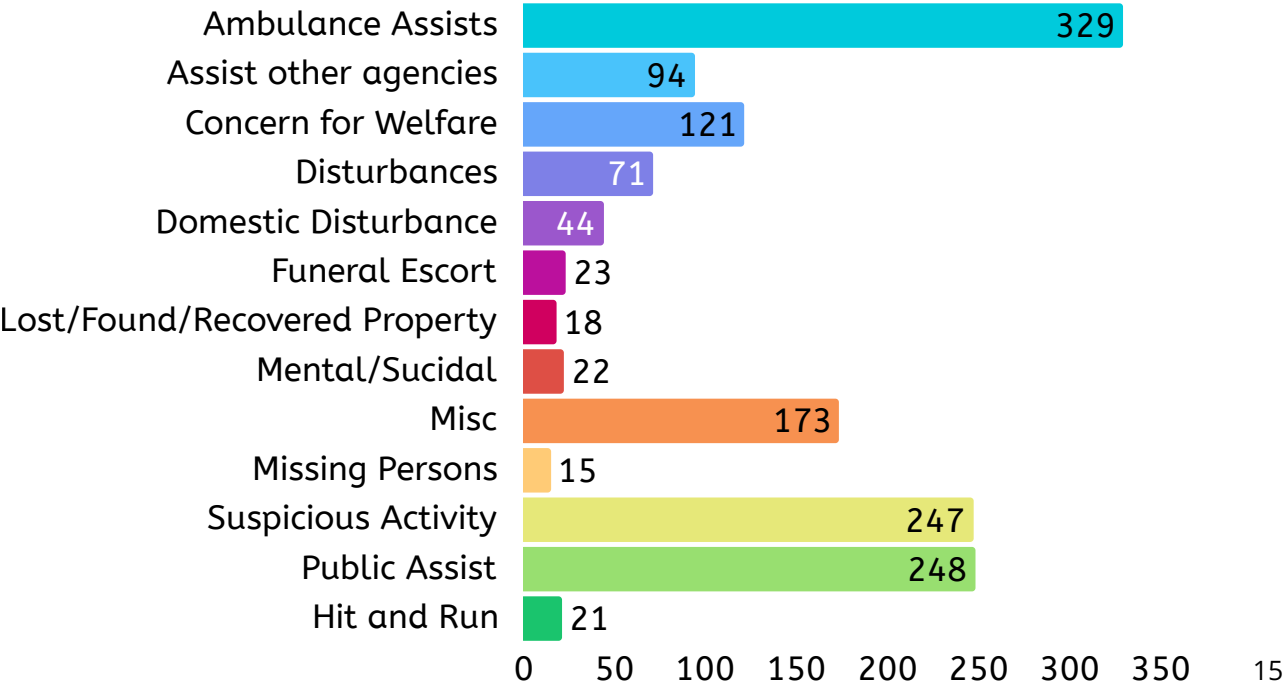
I would like to thank the Windom Fire Department for all their assistance this past year. There are times when Law Enforcement needs assistance from the fire department. Most of these situations are not pleasant. However, each time we have called on the Fire Department, they show up quickly and are awesome at lending a hand. The professionalism displayed is admirable and I am very grateful for their help.

~Sergeant/Investigator Donna Marcy

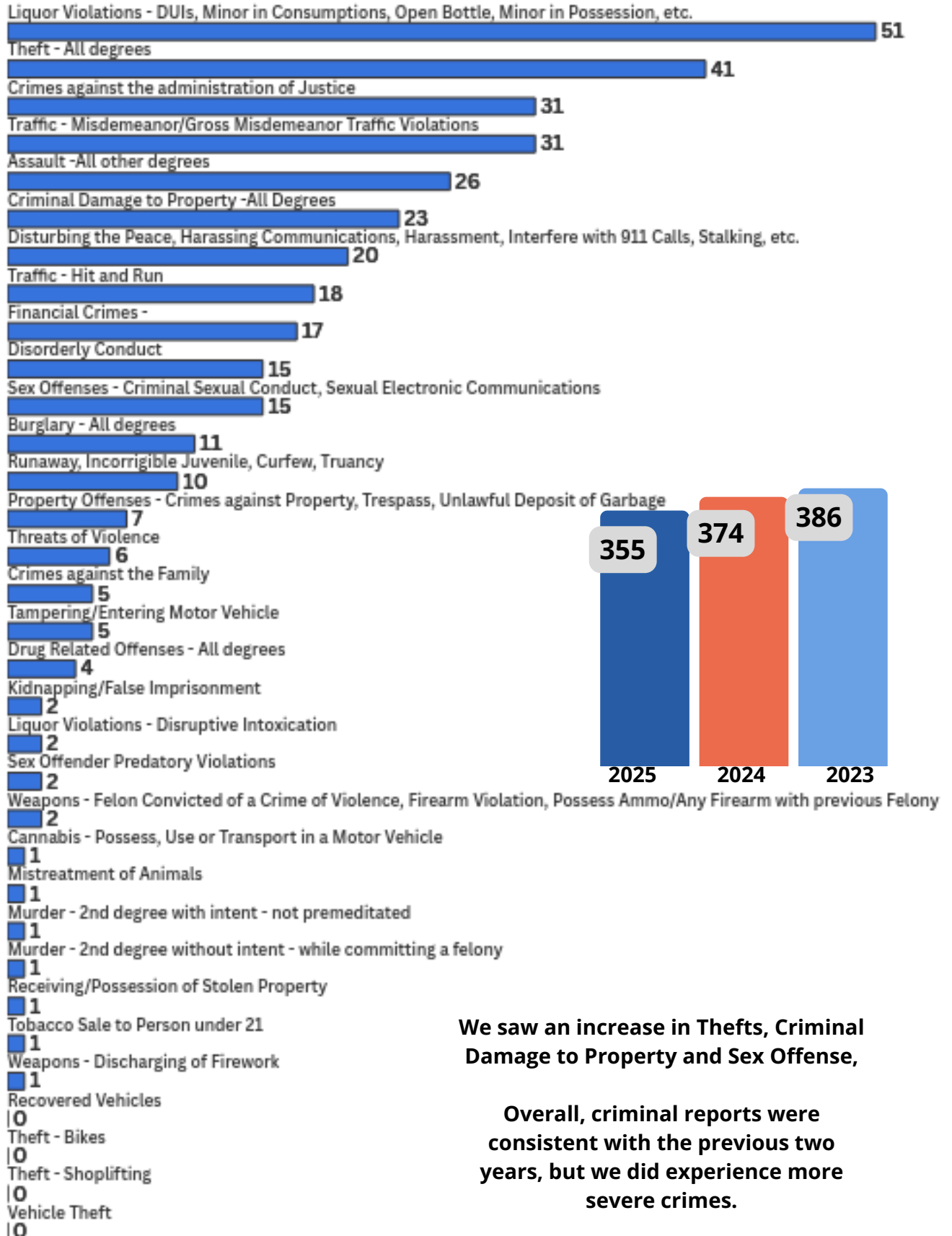
20 YEARS OF CASES AND ARRESTS



The term arrest is often synonymous with an individual being placed in handcuffs and transported to jail. This is referred to as a physical arrest. In lieu of jail, an arrest could also be adjudicated through a citation or a Notice to Appear (NTA). This is essentially an alleged offender's promise to appear if summoned by the court.



Criminal Cases



Adult Arrests

Liquor Violations - DUIs, Minor in Consumptions, Open Bottle, Minor in Possession, etc.

47

Traffic - Hit and Run, Misdemeanor/Gross Misdemeanor Traffic Violations

27

Assault -All degrees and Threats of Violence

20

Crimes against the administration of Justice

15

Theft - All degrees

8

Disorderly Conduct

5

Sex Offenses - Criminal Sexual Conduct, Sexual Electronic Communications

4

Crimes against the Family

3

Drug Related Offenses - All degrees

3

Weapons - Felon Convicted of a Crime of Violence, Firearm Violation, Possess Ammo/Any Firearm with previous Felony

3

Burglary - All degrees

2

Kidnapping/False Imprisonment

2

Liquor Violations - Criminal Vehicle Operation & Carrying a Pistol Under the Influence

2

Liquor Violations - Disruptive intoxications

2

Murder - 2nd degree with and without intent - not premeditated

2

Property Offenses - Crimes against Property, Trespass, Unlawful Deposit of Garbage

2

Animal Mistreatment

1

Criminal Damage to Property -All Degrees

1

Financial Crimes

1

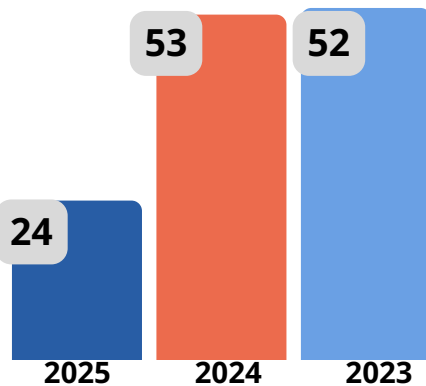
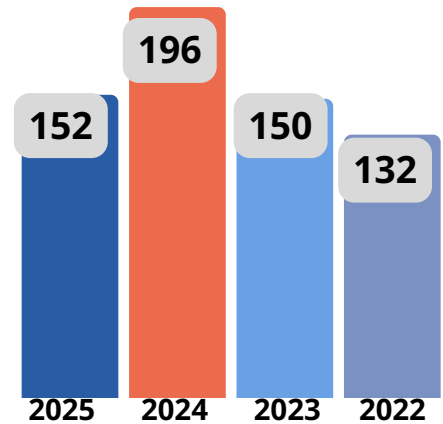
Tobacco Sale to Person under 21

1

Weapons - Discharging of Firework

1

The arrest totals represents the number of arrest charges per offense, not the number of individual cases.



Some offenses resulted in Diversions to probation with no charges. The overall juveniles arrests werwe lower in 2025

Assault -All degrees and Threats of Violence

7

Crimes against the administration of Justice

1

Criminal Damage to Property -All Degrees

1

Curfew

2

Disorderly Conduct

1

Drug Related Offenses - All degrees

1

Liquor Violations - Underage Drink and Drive

1

Liquor Violations - Underage Consumption

5

Runaway

1

Sex Offenses - All Degrees

1

Theft

1

Theft - All degrees

8

Traffic Investigation - other than simple Juv. Traffic Citation

1

Juvenile Arrests