

GRINNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



15th Annual Grinnell Shop with a Cop



MISSION

To protect and serve the community of Grinnell, providing a peaceful and safe existence, free from fear and with democratic values applied equally to all.

Dennis M. Reilly
Chief of Police
GRINNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA

FROM: Dennis Reilly, Chief of Police

DATE: January 27, 2019

TO: Honorable Mayor Dan Agnew
Honorable City Council
Russell L. Behrens, City Manager
P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk
Citizens of the City of Grinnell
Members of the Grinnell Police Department

SUBJECT: Grinnell Police Department 2018 Annual Report

It is an extreme honor and privilege that I present to the citizens of Grinnell, the Grinnell governing body and members of the department the Grinnell Police Department's annual report. While reviewing this report, please keep in mind that the professional activities performed by this department would not be possible without the continued efforts and dedication of its members.

This report details the numerous activities of the department, and includes materials such as crime statistics and the initiatives that we utilize to deal with criminal activity. This report also provides an opportunity for the public to see the various roles that the Police Department plays, and what activities we are engaging in to protect the public while continually striving to maintain an open and professional relationship with the people that we serve.

This report will provide the reader with a summary of the following aspects and activities of the Grinnell Police Department: Current staffing levels and duties; Calls for Service and Investigations; Traffic Safety; Reserve Police Officers; Training; Crime Prevention and School Based Activities.

STAFFING:

The Grinnell Police Department is currently staffed with 17 full-time employees (15 sworn police officers and 2 civilian employees). Of the 15 sworn, staffing consists of: one (1) Chief of Police; one (1) Captain; three (3) Sergeants; nine (9) Patrol Officers; one (1) Narcotics Investigator. One of the patrol officers is currently in training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

The following is an overview of our staffing assignments:

Chief – Chief Executive of the Grinnell Police Department who serves as the final department authority in all matters of policy, operations and discipline.

Captain- Represents the second highest level of command within the Police Department and falls under the immediate command and direction of the Chief of Police. The Captain is responsible for the administration and/or oversight of department operations, Internal Affairs, Public Information Officer, Quartermaster, training, scheduling, jail administration, Property & Evidence operations, and Special Events.

Sergeant (3)

- **(1) Dayshift** – In addition to being responsible for first line supervision of officers assigned to the day tour, the dayshift sergeant also serves as our Investigations Commander, Law Enforcement Intelligence Network liaison, fleet maintenance, Field Training Officer and Reserve Instructor.
- **(2) Nightshift** – In addition to our two night shift sergeants being responsible for first line supervision of officers assigned to the night tour, their collateral duties include: Department training, to include field training program coordination; Information Technology; Arson investigation; Reserve Officer program; Traffic Safety function; tobacco and alcoholic beverage compliance.

Patrol Officers- Eight (8) assigned to 12-hour patrol shifts

- In addition to their primary responsibility of patrol operations, all patrol officers have collateral duties that include, but are not limited to: firearms & training; defensive tactics; vehicle maintenance; vehicle nuisance abatement; Crime Prevention, community activities and school based programs, bike patrol and animal control coordination.

Criminal Investigator

- In addition to their responsibilities as a dayshift patrol officer, our criminal investigator is responsible for the investigation of criminal activity and the processing of crime scenes.

Narcotics Investigator

- Our narcotics investigator is assigned to the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement (M.I.N.E.) and is responsible for the investigation of narcotic activities, as well as other vice type activity.

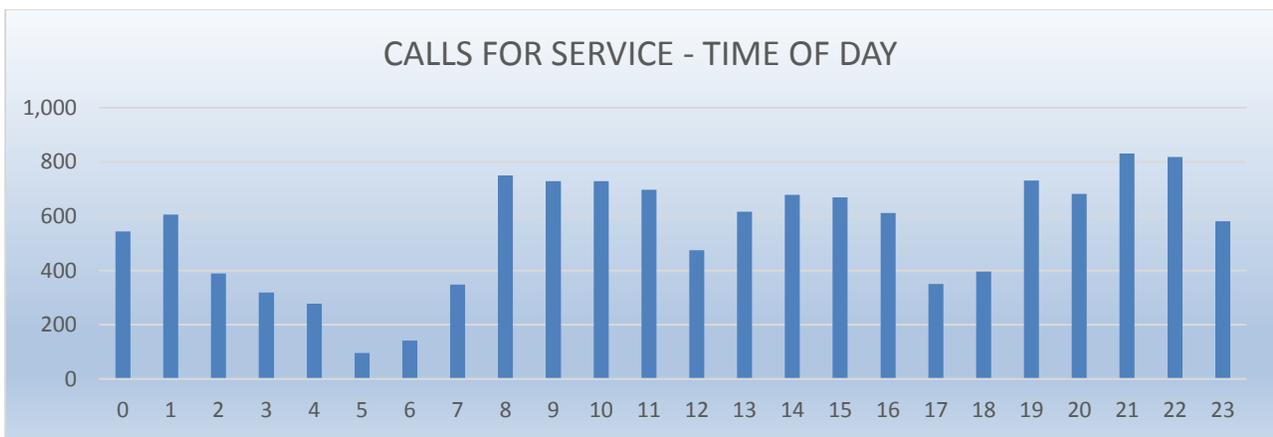
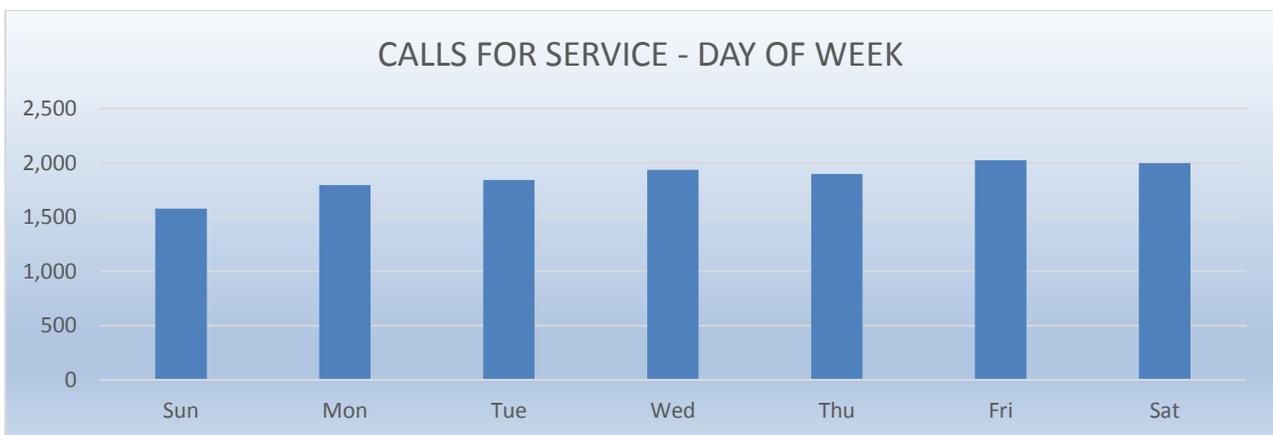
Civilians (2)

- **Administrative Assistant** – Responsible for assisting department administration with numerous office management tasks, to include: accounts payable and receivables; payroll; time accrual tracking and correspondence. The Administrative Assistant is also responsible for: management of the Property & Evidence function; management of in-car and body worn camera video; public record requests; liaison with Poweshiek County courts and County Attorney office.
- **Dictation Clerk** – Responsible for various records assignments as well as computer data entry. The Dictation Clerk is also responsible for the management and submission of the Uniform Crime Report.

CALLS FOR SERVICE AND INVESTIGATIONS:

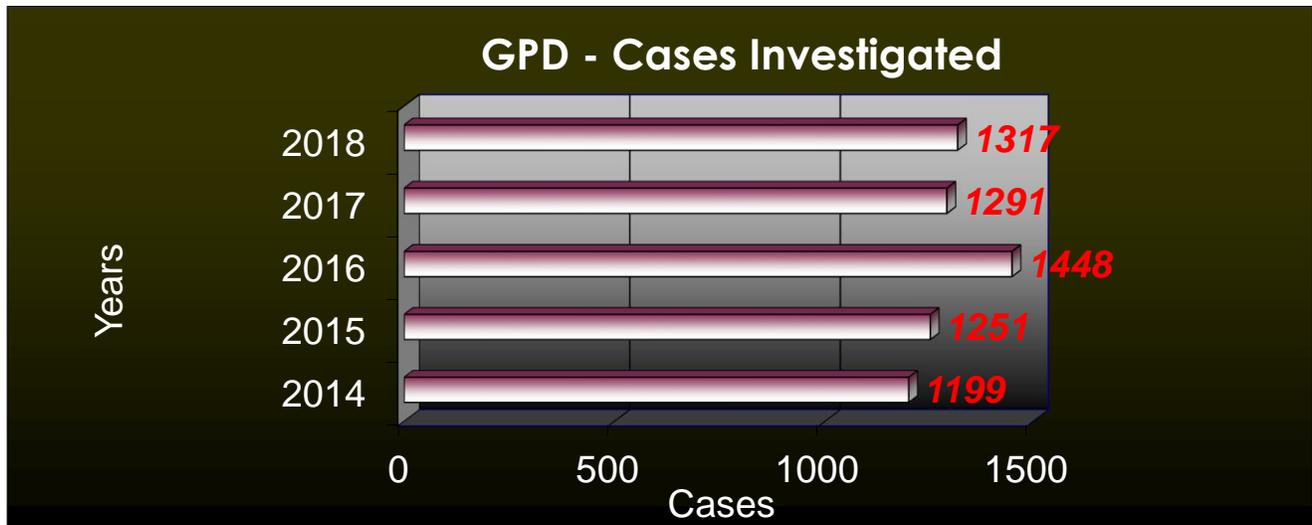
In 2018 we continued to experience criminal activity that requires a great deal of attention and expertise on the part of our officers. The statistical portion of this report was primarily generated from our records management system that is shared with the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office. This system provides officers with access to department records while on patrol. This access includes the ability to: perform name and address history inquiries, complete reports and review calls for service, store statistical data for reporting. This system has also provided the department with the opportunity to go paperless as it relates to reports and documents associated with investigations.

In 2018 our officers responded to, or initiated, 13,506 calls for service. This is a 4% decrease from 2017 and 9% increase from 2016. These calls for service include, but are not limited to: reports of criminal activity; motor vehicle crashes; traffic enforcement; assists to other agencies; medical and fire emergencies; alarm activation responses, business and property checks and other service related functions. It should be noted that the rise in calls for service after 2015 is directly related to the robust records management system that we went with.



Of the 13,506 calls for service in 2018, 1,317 of those resulted in case reports being filed and investigated. This is an increase of 2% from 2017 and 10% decrease from 2016. The 10 year average for cases handled by Grinnell officers is 1,202. Unlike our previous records management system, the

current system automatically creates a case based on certain call for service types, in particular allegations of crimes against persons and property crimes.



Last year the department handled 68 narcotics related investigations, which is a 15% increase from 2017. Of those 68 cases, 57 individuals were arrested for drug related offenses. In 2012 we lost federal funding through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistances Grants. This grant provided for the funding of 75% of salary and benefits for our officer assigned to the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (MINE). The loss of this funding, coupled with a manpower shortage, resulted in the removal of our officer assigned to the task force. In the spring of 2016 we assigned an officer back to M.I.N.E Task Force, without any additional funding from outside sources, in order to resume a more focused effort to address narcotic activity, and in particular the distribution of narcotics.

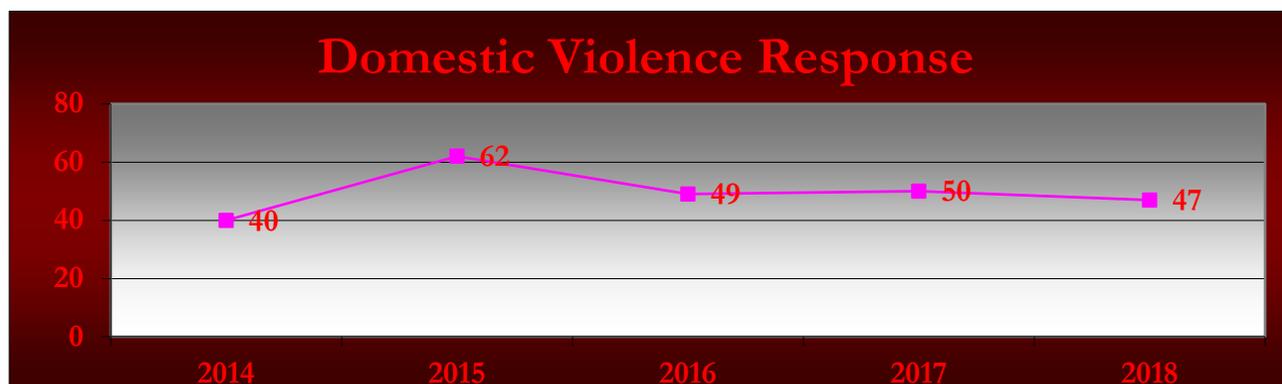
In 2018 the M.I.N.E. officer investigated 18 criminal cases that resulted in 9 individuals being arrested for narcotic distribution type activities. A criminal case for narcotics distribution is often difficult to pursue, with the investigating officer being reliant upon a number of dynamic variables. While our efforts at addressing this type of activity have been positive, there continues to be more work for us to do. It should be noted that our M.I.N.E. officer also assisted with surveillance activities on a number of other criminal cases.



In 2018 the Grinnell Police Department continued to take steps in addressing prescription drug abuse and opioid addiction by maintaining a prescription drug box that is located in the lobby of the Public

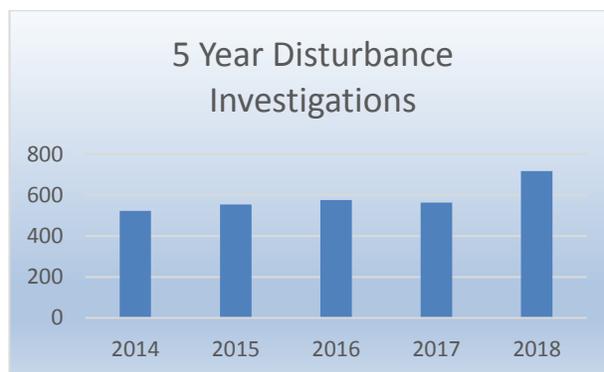
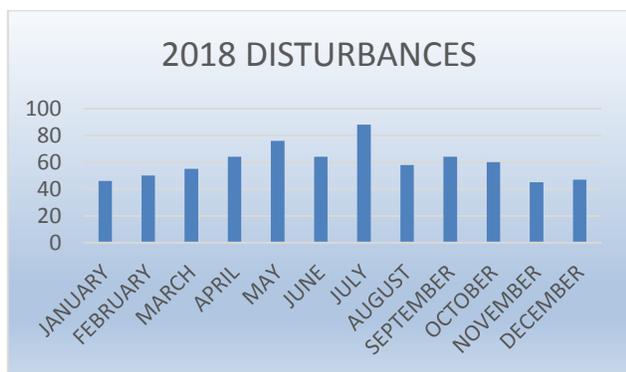
Safety Building, and which is available during regular office hours. Across the country overdose deaths from heroin has reached epidemic proportions, and unfortunately Iowa is not immune from this. The use of Heroin, which is often cut with fentanyl or carfentanyl (potent opioids), is creating deadly consequences and affecting a wide range of population segments. Why a prescription drug box to address heroin overdoses? Often time's heroin users are abusers of prescription pain killers such as oxycodone or hydrocodone. For those who have valid prescription drugs in their homes, but no longer use them, the drop box provides an alternative to leaving the drugs in the home and risking the abuse of them by someone else. In 2018 we collected approximately 244 pounds of prescription drugs. The surrendered drugs were taken to a facility for incineration. Additional information on prescription drug abuse/opioid abuse and properly disposing of unused medication can be found at <https://odcp.iowa.gov/rxotc>.

Domestic Violence continues to be a national problem, where it is estimated that, on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner. Grinnell continues to be not immune to this wave of violence, and the members of this department take an aggressive approach to this behavior, while working within the limits of the Iowa Domestic Abuse statute. In 2018 the Grinnell Police Department responded to approximately 47 reports of Domestic Abuse, which is a 6% decrease from 2017, and 49 reports of a No Contact Order violation, which is a 55% increase from 2017.

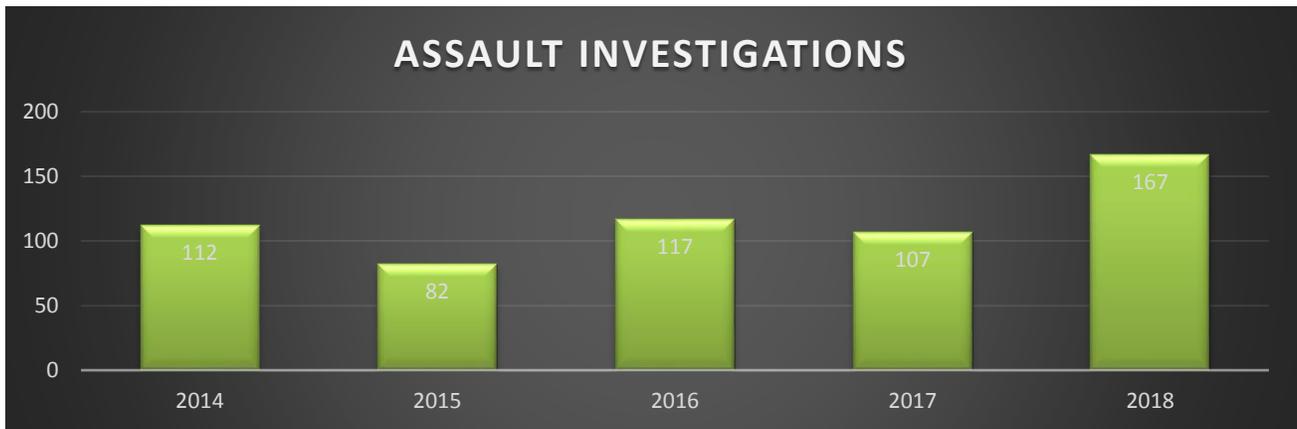


For those who need further assistance with a domestic abuse situation, the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (<http://www.icadv.org/>) is a tremendous resource. For those experiencing domestic abuse within the city of Grinnell, our officers are here 24/7 to render assistance.

Addressing quality of life issues is of particular focus for the police department in order to maintain what we enjoy here in Grinnell. Included in those quality of life issues are reports of disturbances (fights; Neighbor disputes; Juvenile problems; Noise Complaints; Trespassing; Fireworks) and alcohol related events. In 2018 we responded to 717 disturbance and alcohol related calls for service, a 27% increase from 2017.



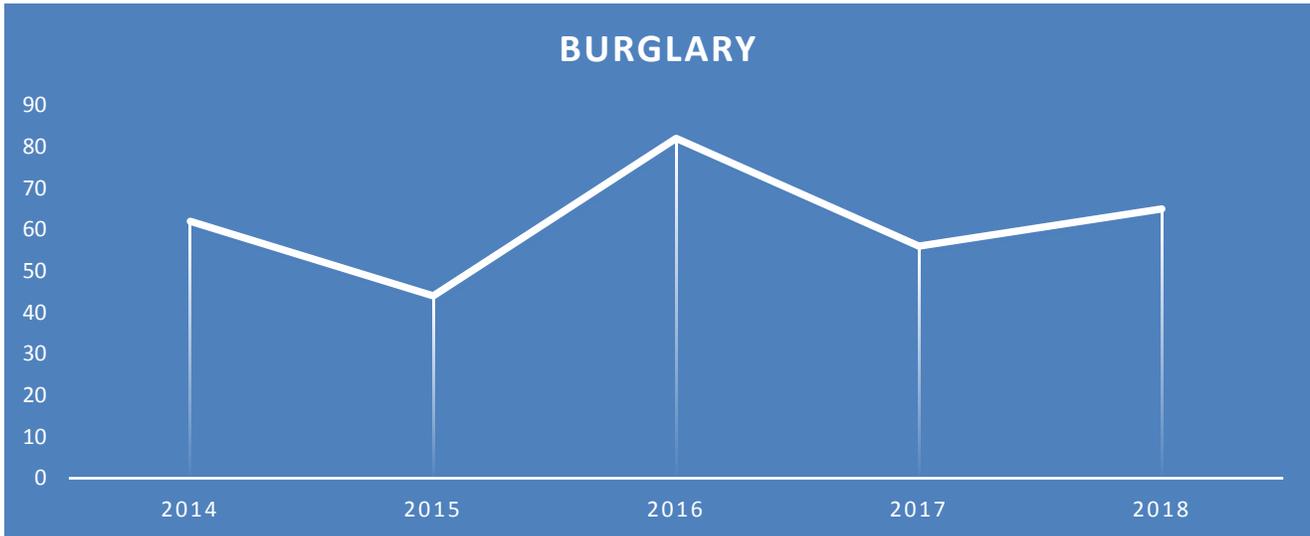
Often times the root cause of a disturbance is alcohol consumption or controlled substance use, so a prompt response is necessary to minimize the potential for these incidents to mushroom into something more serious, such as assaults, criminal mischief and harassment. In 2018 the Grinnell Police Department investigated 165 instances of assault, 95 harassment complaints and 78 criminal mischief incidents.



In 2018 the Grinnell Police Department responded to 242 reported thefts, an increase of 23%, while fraud investigations remained level at 41. Often times the reporting party of a fraud is referred to another agency since the offense did not take place in Grinnell. As it relates to thefts, more often than not thieves are nothing more than opportunists. While the likelihood of eliminating theft is doubtful, the public can certainly minimize the risk of becoming a victim of theft by securing their homes and vehicles when not occupied, while also not leaving valuables out in plain view for all to see and remove. Instances of identity theft and deception schemes often take place by persons who are not in the United States, which makes investigation difficult. What is important for our residents to remember, especially our elderly who are often times targeted, is that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true. Likewise, when an entity makes phone contact demanding financial payment, further research is required. We are also working with our retail partners to help prevent, or aggressively pursue, acts of retail theft.

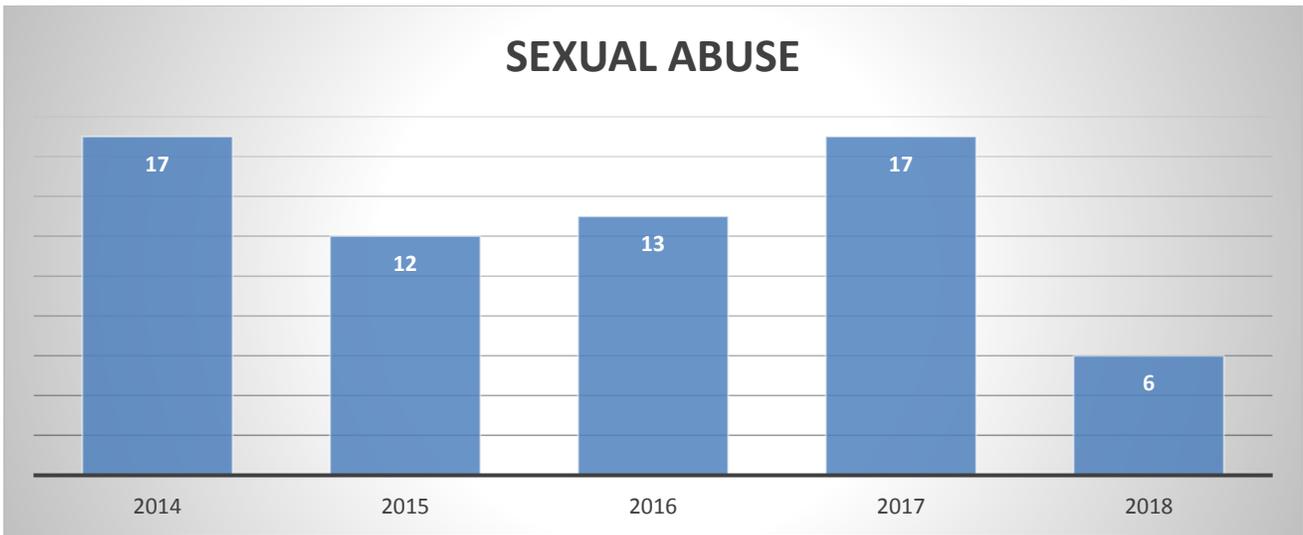


In 2018 the Grinnell Police Department investigated 65 cases involving an accusation of burglary, which is a 14% increase from 2017. This increase is primarily linked to the increase in reported vehicle burglaries that we investigated in 2018 (19) versus 2017 (9). Historically speaking these burglaries are generally more attributed to vehicles and commercial properties, then residential. The highest number of reported burglaries was 99 in 2000. As with most property crimes, burglary suspects are often times opportunists. The vast majority of burglary suspects are not looking for confrontation, but instead looking to slip in and out without detection. They look for indicators of an unoccupied residence, unlocked vehicles and valuables left in plain sight, or vulnerabilities with a business, such as no lights on during the evening hours, newspapers or mail not being taken in, cash being left in business registers, poor exterior lighting and possibly the lack of any video monitoring or alarm system. The burglar will also look for homes with overgrown bushes or poor lighting near entry points, which provides concealment. Leaving a residence, or vehicle, unlocked while unoccupied also does not help matters. The public plays an incredible role in property crime prevention and identification. When a resident or business owner observes something that looks out of the ordinary, they are encouraged to contact the police department. The members of the Grinnell Police Department would much rather investigate a suspicious person or vehicle, and determine that no criminal activity was taking place, instead of determining after the fact that someone had observed suspicious activity that turned out to be the suspect of a burglary or theft.



Aside from murder, which we were fortunate not to encounter in 2018, sexual abuse cases are probably the most significant crime against persons that an officer can be assigned to. In most instances these crimes are committed by suspects who are known by the victim. In 2018 we investigated 6 cases of alleged sexual abuse, which is a 65% decrease from 2017. Of these 6 cases, two resulted in charges being filed. While it is difficult to determine a root cause for these acts, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified a number of risk factors that lead to sexual assault. These factors include risks associated with the individuals involved, relationship factors, as well as community and societal factors. Those interested in learning more about these risk factors can visit the CDC article online at <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>.

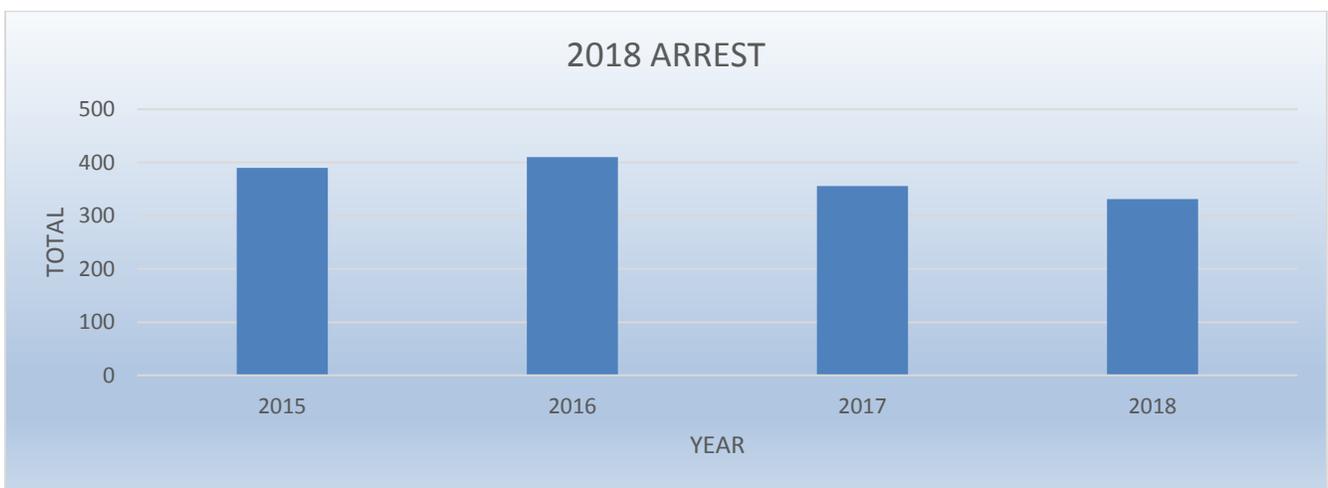
SEXUAL ABUSE



In 2018 Sgt. Gray was in charge of investigations, with Ofc. Moore assigned as our criminal investigator. Criminal investigations handled 28 investigations, in addition to those cases assigned to the investigator as part of their daily patrol function. Of the 28 criminal investigations, 12 of those cases were cleared (49% clearance rate). An additional 11 cases were classified as open-inactive, meaning that there were no further avenues of investigation available to either identify a suspect or gather enough evidence that rose to the level of probable cause to make an arrest. A vast majority of these open-inactive cases are related to property crimes. An additional 5 cases are still active and have been carried over into 2019. In 2017 we began exploring the use of a case screening process, where weighted solvability factors are used to determine whether or not an investigation is followed up by an investigator. Since my arrival in Grinnell it has been my desire to transition our part-time investigator role in to more of a full-time function. This would enable the department to take more of a pro-active approach to criminal activity while relieving patrol officers from prolonged investigations.

There were 331 arrests in 2018, a decrease of 3% from 2017. Of those arrested in 2018, 21 were juveniles, which is down from 27 in 2017. Among the charges levied against juveniles were alcohol possession violations, possession of a controlled substances and drug paraphernalia, assault and theft.

2018 ARREST

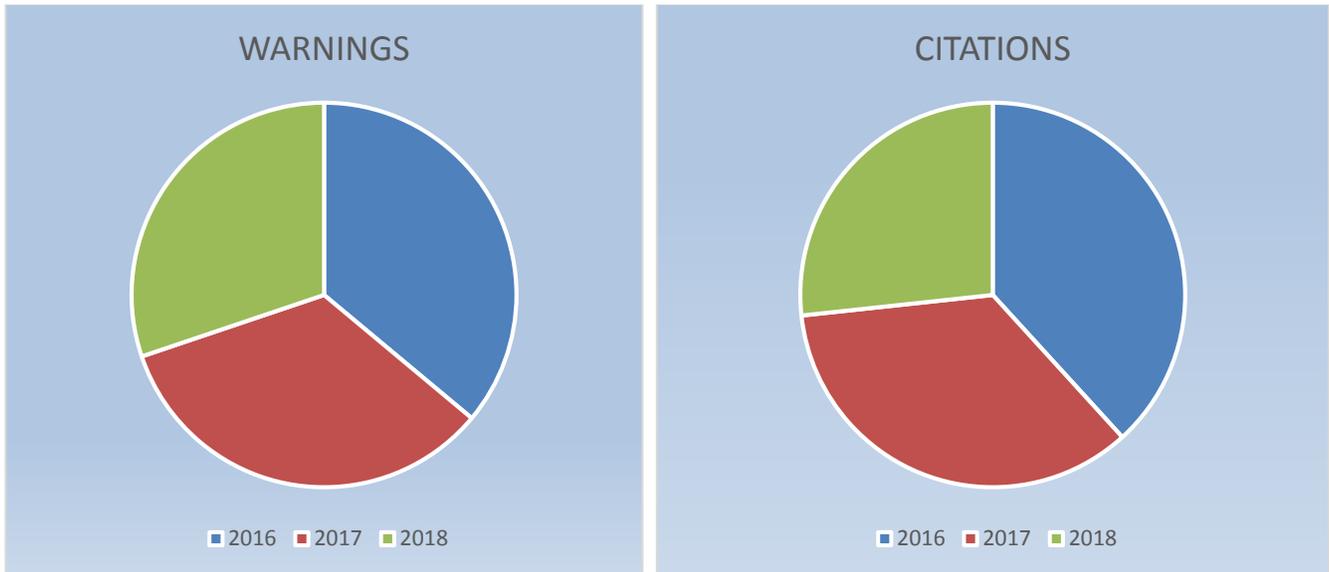


In order to effectively deal with the more serious criminal conduct within our community, we make an effort to deal with the smaller problems before they become bigger ones. Methods such as community policing and intelligence led policing, coupled with proactive enforcement efforts, are effective means

of keeping the crime rate low. We also continue to reach out to the community to reinforce our need for their assistance in reducing crime.

TRAFFIC SAFETY:

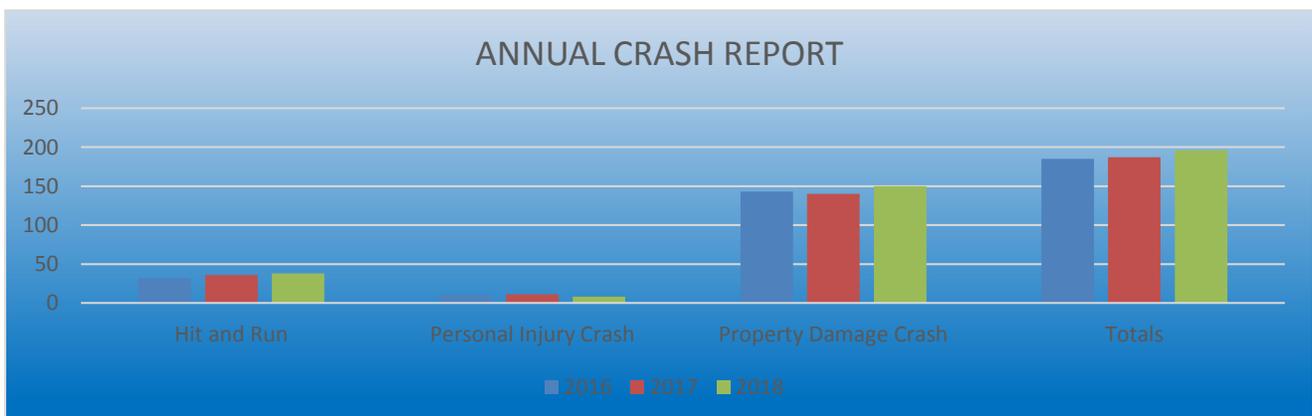
In 2018, officers issued 535 citations (31% decrease from 2017) and 1,413 warnings (12% decrease from 2017). The three E’s of Traffic Safety are: Enforcement; Education; Engineering. By using a combination of citations and warnings, officers are educating motorists on matters of traffic safety while taking enforcement action by stopping the motorist and providing them an opportunity to take their own corrective action.



In 2018 the department began deploying a speed sign throughout the city, which not only alerts motorists to their speeds but also aids our traffic safety function in identifying speed issues in neighborhoods while also providing traffic counts where needed. Sgt. Chris Wray is in charge of the traffic safety function and can be contacted for traffic safety related concerns.



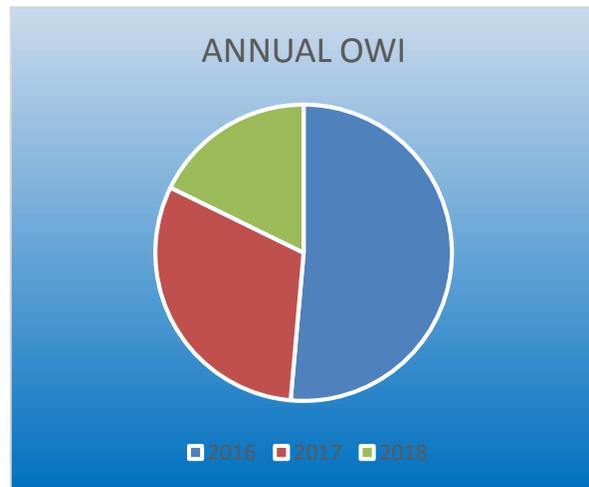
There was an 11% increase in property damage crashes in 2018, with 159 occurring. Despite this increase we experienced a decrease (35%) in personal injury accidents with 17 taking place. We also experienced 41 hit and run crashes in 2018, which is a 12% increase from 2017.



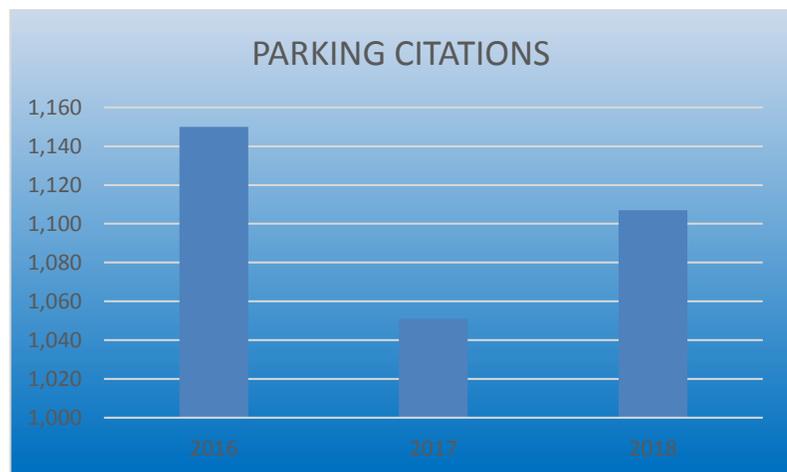
In an effort to address impaired and distracted driving, in 2018 we continued to receive grant funding from the Governor’s Highway Traffic Safety Bureau, Iowa Department of Public Safety. This special Traffic Enforcement Program (s.T.E.P.) grant has been awarded to us for a number of years. It is used for overtime during traffic enforcement projects around the holidays and other events where there is the likelihood of violations. It also provides for the purchase of equipment such as radar units or in-car video systems.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), it is estimated that 29 people per day die in alcohol-impaired driving crashes nationally. NHTSA also reports that, while traffic deaths related to impaired driving has fallen by one third in the last 30 years, 10,000 people a year are killed in drunk-driving crashes. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) also reports that marijuana use is increasing and 13% of those drivers operating a vehicle at night, or on the weekend, have marijuana in their system.

In 2017 330 fatalities took place on Iowa roads, which is down from 402 in 2016. Of the 330 fatalities in 2017, 40% were attributed to impaired driving from alcohol and/or drugs. Of those fatalities where the driver had drugs in their system (70), Cannabis (24) and CNS Stimulants (23) were the leading drug categories. In order to try and prevent these tragedies from occurring in Grinnell and the surrounding area, our officers are trained in the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers. In 2018 our officers made 19 Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) arrests, which is down from 27 in 2017.



There were 1,107 parking tickets issued in 2018, up from 1051 in 2017. Parking violations can cause vision obstructions, jeopardize pedestrian safety (especially near schools, college campus and the downtown area) while also hampering snow removal efforts. Residents and visitors are also encouraged to sign up for city notifications, such as when snow emergencies are declared.



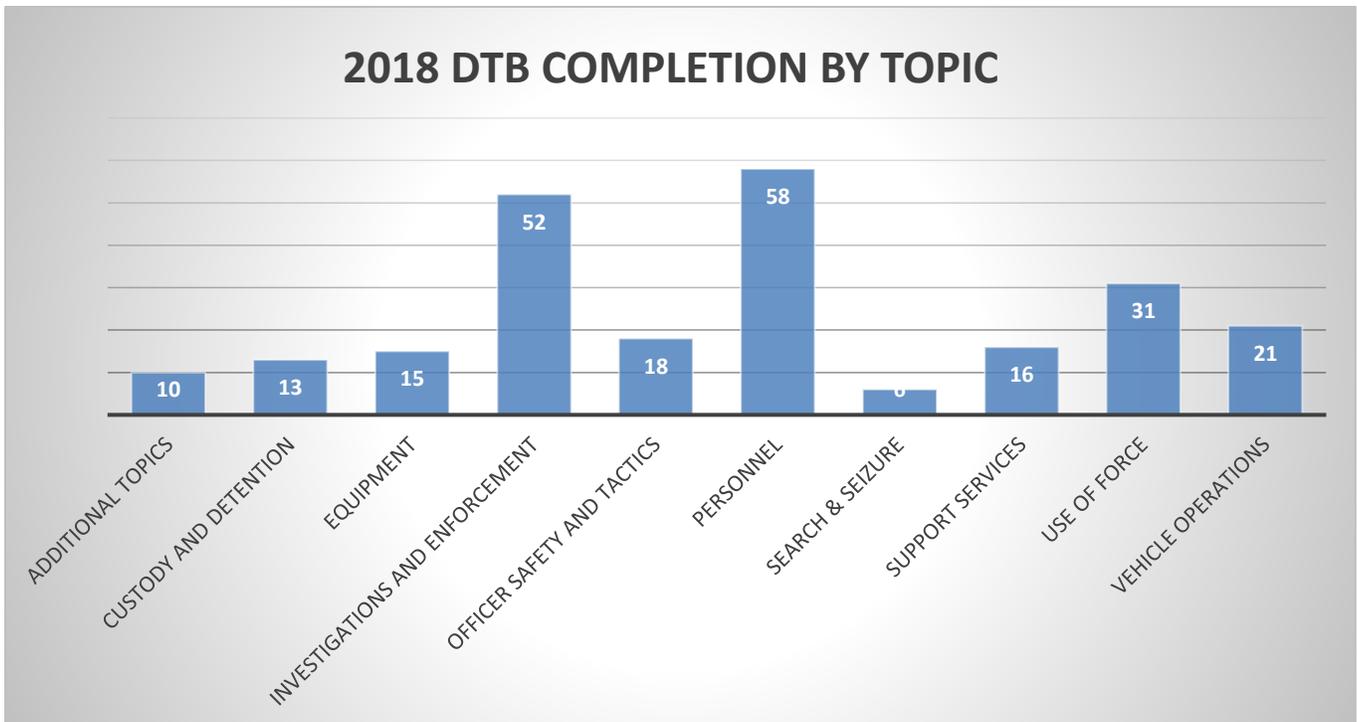
TRAINING:

Training of our entire staff remains a priority for the police department. There are mandatory training requirements put in place by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy to obtain, and maintain, police officer and instructor certifications. We continue to exceed those requirements. In 2018 Captain Petersen coordinated the training of department members, with assistance from Sgt. Johnson. We conduct both in-house training, utilizing our own instructors and local expertise, as well as sending officers and civilian staff to training at remote sites. Since 2013 we have expanded our firearms training. Officers

engage in both live fire and simulated exercises, which focus not only on their firearms proficiency but also tactical skills as it relates to tactical entry and building searches. We also incorporate monthly internet based training, covering topics such as: mental health; sexual abuse; fair and impartial policing; de-escalation; Iowa law updates; workplace safety. Our in-service and internet based training accounted for 1,565 hours of training for staff in 2018, which is down from 1,600 in 2017.



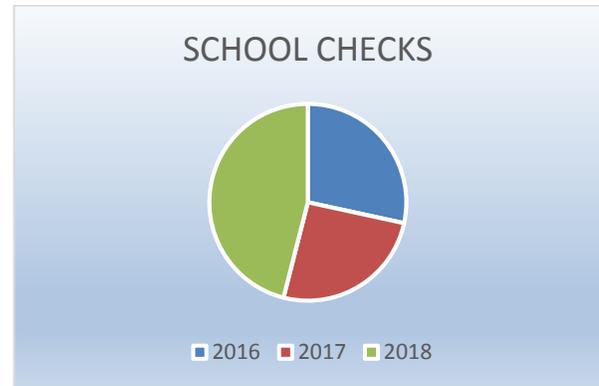
This training time does not include policy based training, which was started in 2018. In the winter of 2017 the Grinnell Police Department completed a yearlong policy manual revision. The web-based policy manual currently used by the Grinnell Police Department, which is based on state and federal law along with industry best practices, incorporates Daily Training Bulletins (DTB) that officers are required to complete. Each DTB presents a scenario with a related policy question, followed by applicable policy for the scenario and then a test question. In 2018 each officer reviewed approximately 240 DTB's, covering a variety of policy content topics.



CRIME PREVENTION:

The Grinnell Police Department continues to work with the community in crime prevention programs and methods. It is critical to our operation that we foster and maintain relationships with our community and businesses. In 2018 Officer's Mike Dickenson and Bryce Doane managed the crime prevention duties. As part of our continuing effort to work closely with the various groups and entities of the Grinnell community, we are involved in many coalitions and committees, such as: Grinnell College Parking Committee; Poweshiek County Healthy Choices; Poweshiek County DVA/SAC Coalition; Poweshiek County Sexual Assault Team; Grinnell Chamber of Commerce. The programs provided by the Grinnell Police Department included, but are not limited to: Citizen Police Academy, National Night Out, A.L.I.C.E. training, Camp 911, Coffee with a Cop. In 2018 the Grinnell Police Department provided approximately 94 hours of presentations to approximately 2,052 participants.

Officers also strive to have a presence in the schools as part of their patrol activities. Officers will regularly visit Grinnell schools, depending on call and investigation volume, in order to interact with students and staff. In 2018 patrol officers spent approximately 161 hours in the schools.



The Grinnell Police Department has a number of officers certified as A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) instructors. A.L.I.C.E. training was developed following the examination of school environment shootings, such as Columbine High School in 1999. This training provides students and educators in the school environment, as well as workers in an office environment, with options during an active shooter incident. Those interested in A.L.I.C.E training should contact Sgt. Dan Johnson. Class duration is flexible, from 2-4+ hours depending on scenarios.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND PROGRAMS

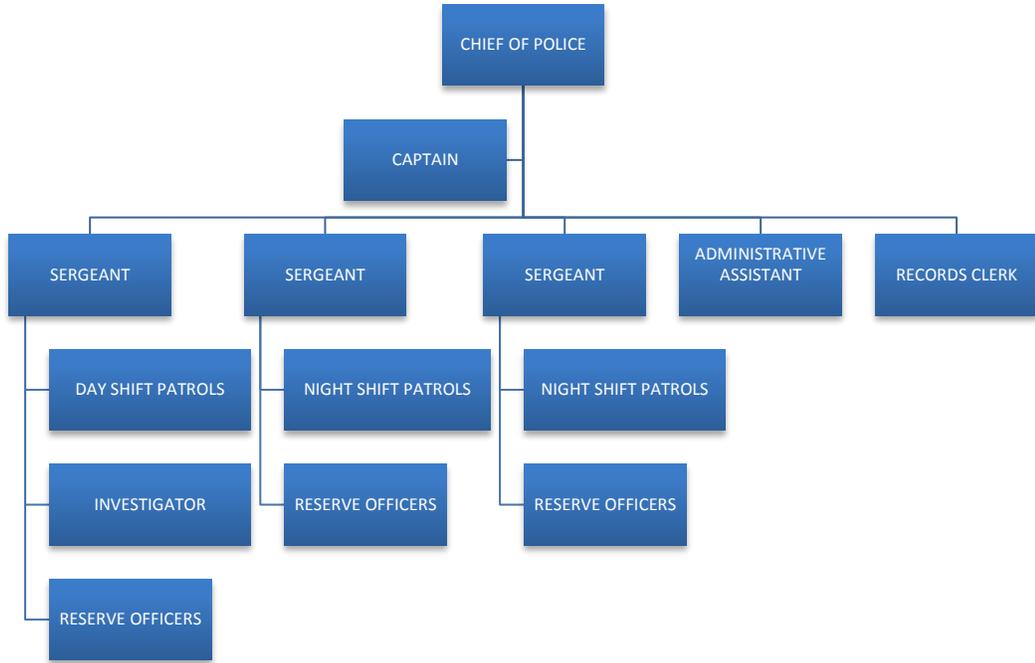
- Hosted Grinnell's 16th Annual National Night Out (NNO) program with the Grinnell Optimist Club. This year's event was particularly successful due to the efforts of Officer Doane and use of our newly updated Central Park. NNO is a police and community partnership that is designed to:
 - Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
 - Generate support for, and participation in, anti-crime programs
 - Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
 - Send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back
- Camp 911 was conducted in August, with community youth being presented with the various aspects of first responder services in Grinnell.
- Held the 15th annual Shop with a Cop program with many businesses, community members, and the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce as sponsors. This program helps deserving children enjoy their holidays, while also providing our officers with an opportunity to spend time with children of the community, which ultimately fosters improved relationships.

- Coordinated the 10th Citizen's Police Academy. This program provides community members with an opportunity to learn the many facets of law enforcement, and includes a ride-a-long with a Grinnell officer. Since 2012 we have increased our efforts to include the Grinnell College students as participants.
- During the course of the year Ofc. Dickenson and Doane provided robbery training to banks in Grinnell. This training has been previously provided to a number of banks located in Grinnell.
- Conducted periodic foot patrol operations in the downtown area, residential neighborhoods and at Grinnell College, promoting community interaction and deterring crime through high visibility.
- The nuisance animal enforcement effort continues to raise owner awareness with the goal of voluntary compliance of city animal laws. This assignment was coordinated by Ofc. Bryce Doane. Enforcing the animal license requirement on a consistent basis keeps animals accounted for and encourages owners to be more responsible. We work closely with the Jasper County Animal Rescue League, who provides certified Animal Control Officers to assist with investigations while also responding to pick up stray dogs. In the fall of 2014 we adjusted our response to stray cats by only picking up those cats that are sick or injured.
- The Grinnell Police Department is also responsible for the enforcement of the city's ordinance on nuisance vehicles. In 2018 49 vehicles were investigated for violation of the nuisance vehicle ordinance. Chapter 51 of the municipal code defines what a "Junk Vehicle" is. First time offenders are issued a warning, while repeat offenders are generally cited for each subsequent violation. As with our other enforcement efforts, the police department seeks voluntary compliance from our residents on the storage of vehicles.
- Facilitated many tours of the police and fire departments to various groups and individuals.
- We continue to work with the Poweshiek County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). In 2018, in conjunction with the EMA and G-N School District, Grinnell first responders were exposed to an active shooter drill at a local school. While unfortunate to think that such an event could take place, preparedness is a key factor in responding to such a catastrophic incident.

RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS:

In 2018 the Grinnell Police Reserve Unit was led by Ofc. Ben Smith. We had 2 reserve officers and are reviewing the program, in the hope of increasing our numbers in 2019. Our reserve officers are mandated by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) to maintain their State of Iowa reserve certification, which requires a significant amount of training each year. Our reserves are required to provide a designated number of hours each month, while also assisting with the many events held in Grinnell during the year. We are always looking for qualified, dedicated and civic-minded individuals to join our reserve unit.

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE - DECEMBER 2018



Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Reilly
Chief of Police