



**South
Milwaukee
Police
Department**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**Police Chief:
William Jessup**

Compiled by:
Officer James Rodman



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South Milwaukee City Officials

Mayor

Jim Shelenske

City Administrator

Patrick Brever

Assistant City Administrator **Katie Crosby**

Police and Fire Commission **Bob Weber**

Heather Frederick

Brett Briesemeister

Donald O'Kray

Carla Uphill

Tobie Weberg

William Jessup

Brett Briesemeister

Craig Maass

Michal Olechowski

Tim Backes

Joseph Bukowski

Lisa Pieper

Peggy Clark

David Bartoshevich

Kelly Martyka

Christopher Smith

Sandi Wesolowski

Karen Skowronski

Police Chief

Common Council

Municipal Judge

City Attorney

City Clerk

City Treasurer

Mission Statement:

In partnership with the community, we strive to enhance the quality of life through the reduction of crime, fear and disorder

Goals:

- Develop an effective, efficient and responsive management system
- Increase agency-community partnerships
- Provide a more effective allocation of resources
- Increase job satisfaction for all employees
- Treat all persons with respect, courtesy and fairness
- Identify, control and reduce crime
- Protect Constitutional guarantees
- Facilitate the safe movement of people and vehicles

Values:

Central to our mission is a set of values that will guide our work and decisions and allow us to make significant contributions to the quality of life in South Milwaukee.

Competence

We are prudent stewards of the public's grant of authority and resources. We are accountable for the quality of our performance and the standards of our conduct.

Courage

We place the safety of others before our own and accept our moral responsibility to take action against injustice and wrongdoing. Police members are expected to take prudent risks on behalf of the public.

Integrity

We recognize the complexity of police work and exercise discretion in ways that are beyond reproach and worthy of public trust. Honesty and truthfulness are fundamental elements of integrity.

Respect

We hold life in the highest regard. We treat all citizens and colleagues with dignity and respect, and are fair and impartial as we perform our duties.

Leadership

We seek to influence human behavior to achieve organizational goals that serve the public while developing individuals, teams and the organization for future service. We are all responsible for the performance, reputation and morale of the department.

Restraint

We use the minimum force and authority necessary to accomplish a proper police purpose. We demonstrate self-discipline even during high stress events.

Organizational Chart



A Letter from Chief Jessup

To the citizens of South Milwaukee, Mayor James Shelenske, City Administrator Patrick Brever, the South Milwaukee Common Council, the South Milwaukee Police & Fire Commission, and members of the South Milwaukee Police Department:

I am pleased to present to you the 2024 South Milwaukee Police Department Annual Report and I hope you will find that it provides an accurate overview of the challenges and accomplishments, as well as the activities undertaken by our staff to enhance public safety in South Milwaukee.

In addition to several ongoing programs designed to improve service and advance community policing principles, the department initiated a new drone program that allows for more effective capabilities during missing persons searches and criminal investigations. The past year also brought some notable changes to our staff, with the hiring of a new police officer, Brittany Brandon, as well as a new dispatcher, Marquenon Franklin. In December of 2024 we also began contracting with the City of Oak Creek to provide dispatch services to our community under a ten-year agreement that will provide enhanced service and quicker response to 911 cellular calls

As always, we strive to make our city safer through a community-based policing strategy that is responsive to the needs of individuals and businesses while following a set of principles that fosters mutual respect. Our members are committed to their profession and they work tirelessly on behalf of our citizens to provide prompt, effective service that keeps our community safe.

While we have seen reductions in crime over the past several years, our work is never done. As we move forward, we will surely encounter new challenges but I am confident in our members and grateful for the support of our elected and appointed leaders. In partnership, we will overcome those difficulties and will make South Milwaukee healthier and stronger.

Sincerely,

Chief William Jessup



A Letter From the Operations Commander

Hello and thank you to the citizens of South Milwaukee. Your continued support and partnership with the police department has both helped in the reduction of crime and increased desire for people to live, work and play in South Milwaukee. This partnership continues to be very strong and it is due to citizen and business input. Thank you for your commitment. Also, thank you to the Officers, Dispatchers and Clerks at SMPD for their commitment to service for the citizens of our community. Your commitment and work ethic are appreciated.

We did add some new members to the SMPD family this year. Welcome Officer Brittany Brandon and dispatcher Marquenon Franklin! They both have displayed an excellent attitude toward police service and are already doing great work.

Crime trends remained mostly unchanged this year. Petty theft and shoplifting are a constant thorn, often committed by non-residents of South Milwaukee. Violent crime remains very low for South Milwaukee. We added a drone and trained several officers, which has already resulted in locating both suspects of crime and missing persons. Officers have also increased monitoring of social media, resulting in criminal arrests. The result has been continued crime clearance.

If you can, join us as we continue our annual community policing endeavors: Community Night Out, Shop with a Cop and DARE Golf Outing, Red Cross Blood Drive, along with many other events. We are also looking forward to running a Citizens Academy in 2025.

You know what's next... My Broken Record Plea! Get involved! If you see something, say something! If something doesn't seem right, trust yourself and call SMPD and ask for us to check it out. Note descriptions of suspicious persons and vehicles. The best way for citizens to assist the police in staying safe is to keep valuables out of sight and out of vehicles, when not necessary. Please lock your cars and houses! This has shown to reduce the chances you become a victim of theft by up to 90%! Other ways to assist include use and sharing of surveillance video and social media activity - even simply taking note of suspicious activity. Most criminal activity is witnessed by someone whether or not they recognized it at the time it occurred.

Together, we are strong and capable of great things.
Together - we win.

Sincerely,
Captain Chad Milow



A Letter From the Administrative Services Commander

The Administrative Services Division is comprised of the

Communications Center (Oak Creek as of December 4, 2024)
Investigations Section (Investigators and School Liaison Officers)
Records Department
Internal Affairs
Accreditation

The Communications Center handled over 30,000 events in 2024. One full-time and several substitute dispatchers were responsible for all incoming calls to the police department, all radio transmissions for police and fire, and all 911 emergency calls. Our dispatch operations will be moved over to the City of Oak Creek officially on December 4th, 2024, where Oak Creek took over dispatching services for the South Milwaukee Police and Fire Departments. A lot of planning and collaboration went into making this transition. The switchover in dispatch services went well on all fronts. In 2025, the Oak Creek dispatch center will continue to provide the best emergency services and customer service to the community of South Milwaukee.

The Investigations Section is comprised of a lieutenant, two school liaison officers and three investigators, including one member who is assigned to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group. The liaison officers are assigned to the South Milwaukee High School and the South Milwaukee Middle School but they also spend time in the elementary schools, teaching the DARE program.

The Records Department is comprised of two full-time clerks and one part-time clerk. The records section is open Monday through Friday 7am-6pm and is closed on the weekends and holidays. The records section handles hundreds of records requests, as well as winter parking permits and the collection of fines and payments.

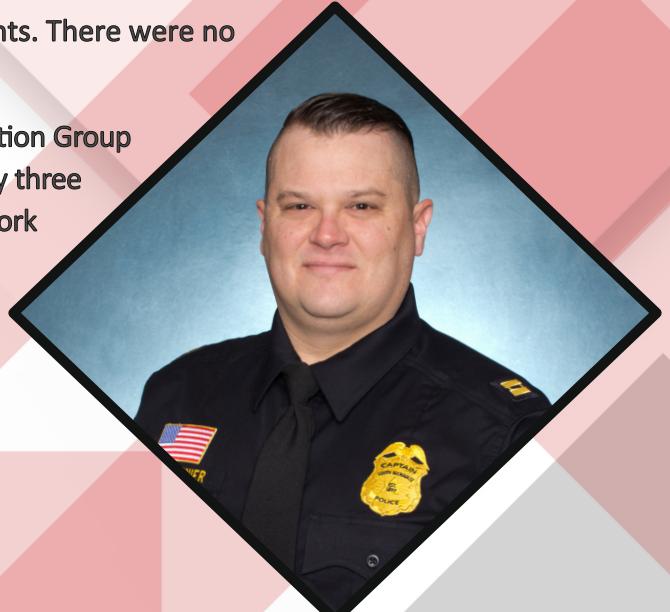
The Internal Affairs section investigates citizen complaints. There were no internal investigations in 2024.

As members of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG), we go through a full accreditation process every three years. In 2024, our accreditation team has continued to work and prepare our files for re-accreditation in 2026.

The hard work and dedication of the sworn and non-sworn members of the Administrative Services Division is admired and appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Dan Fournier

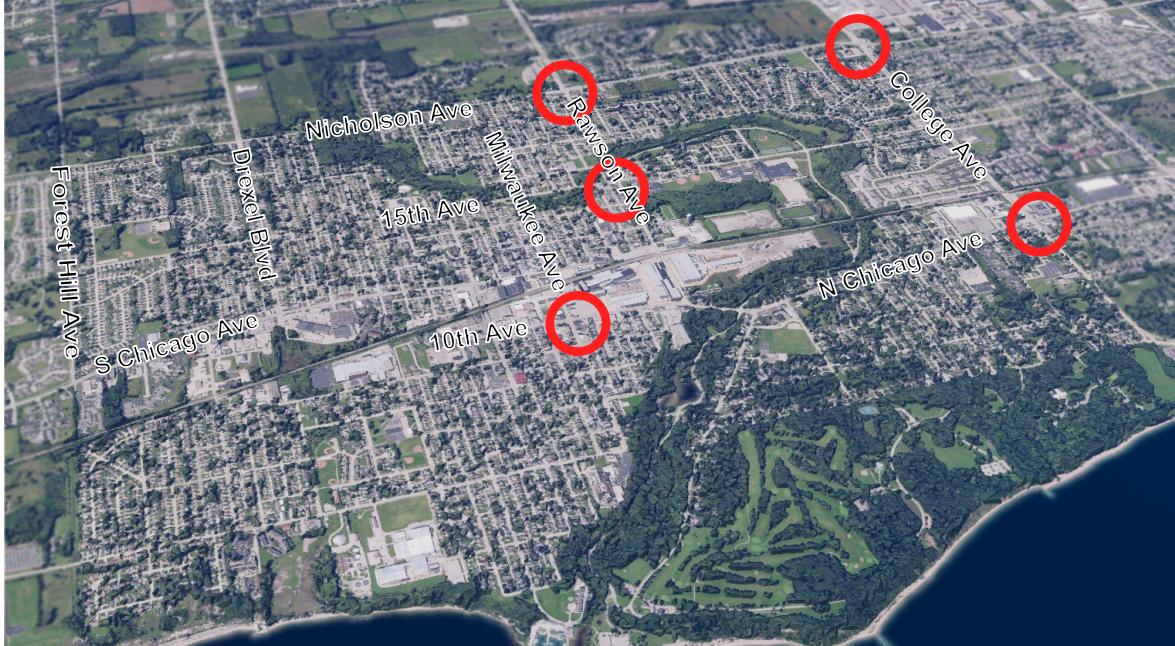
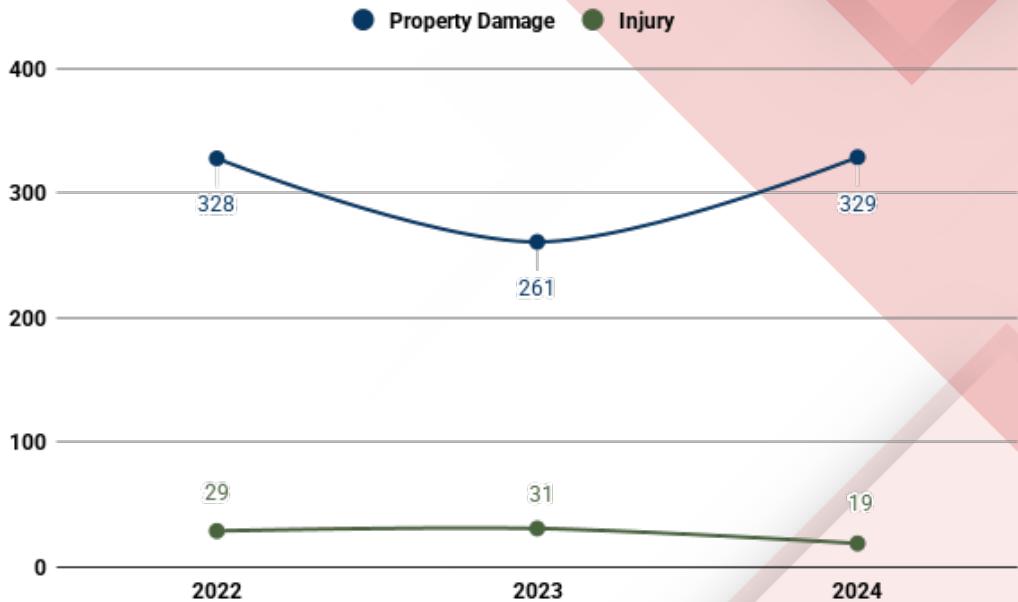








Traffic Crash Statistics



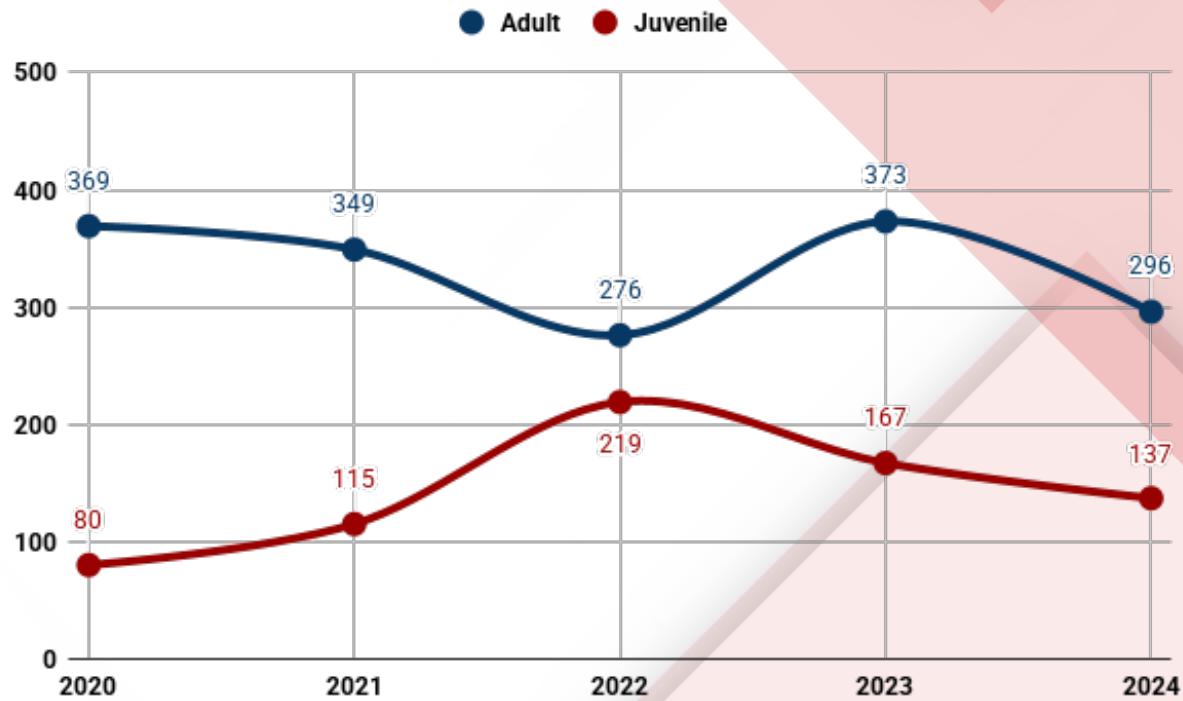
The above map illustrates the areas of highest traffic crashes. As expected, the intersections with the highest traffic volume and the shopping centers with the most vehicle traffic were the areas where most crashes occurred.

South Milwaukee 5-Year Crime Trends



2024 showed a slight increase in Property Crime (due to increases in retail thefts) while Violent Crime remained relatively unchanged.

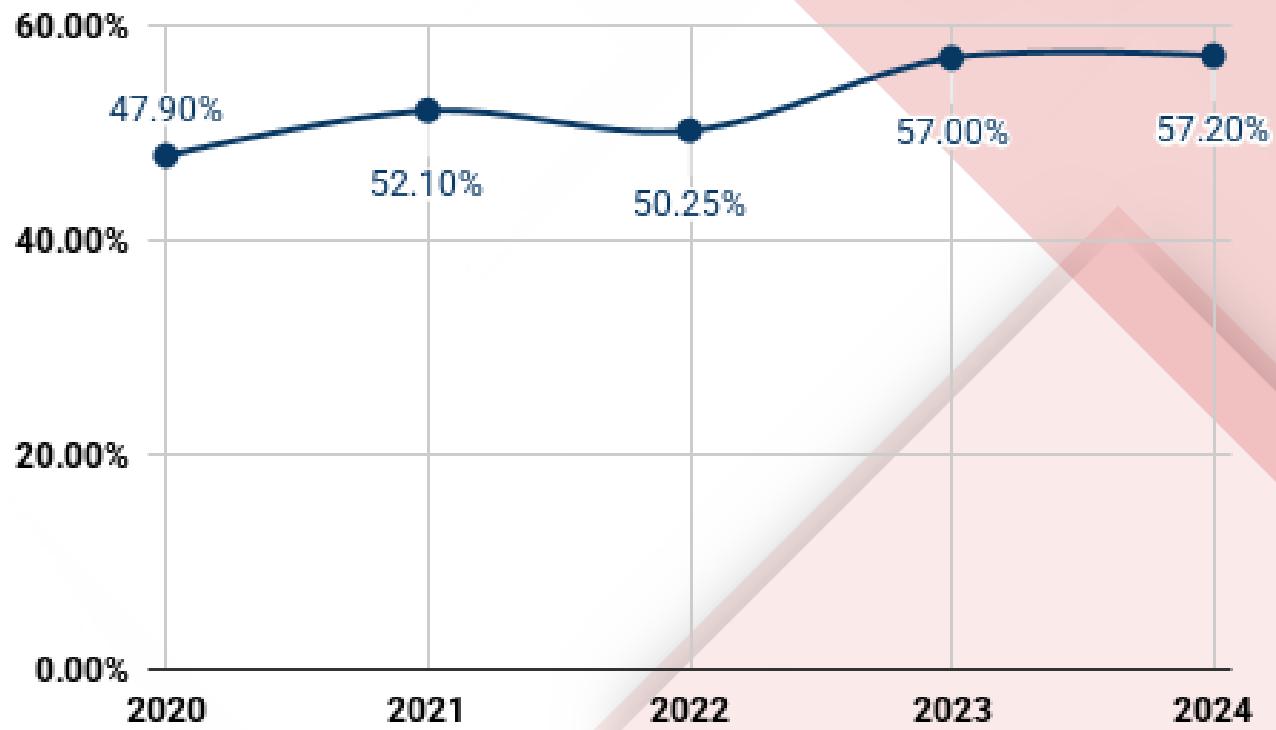
Arrest Statistics



2024 showed a decrease of 20% in Adult arrests.

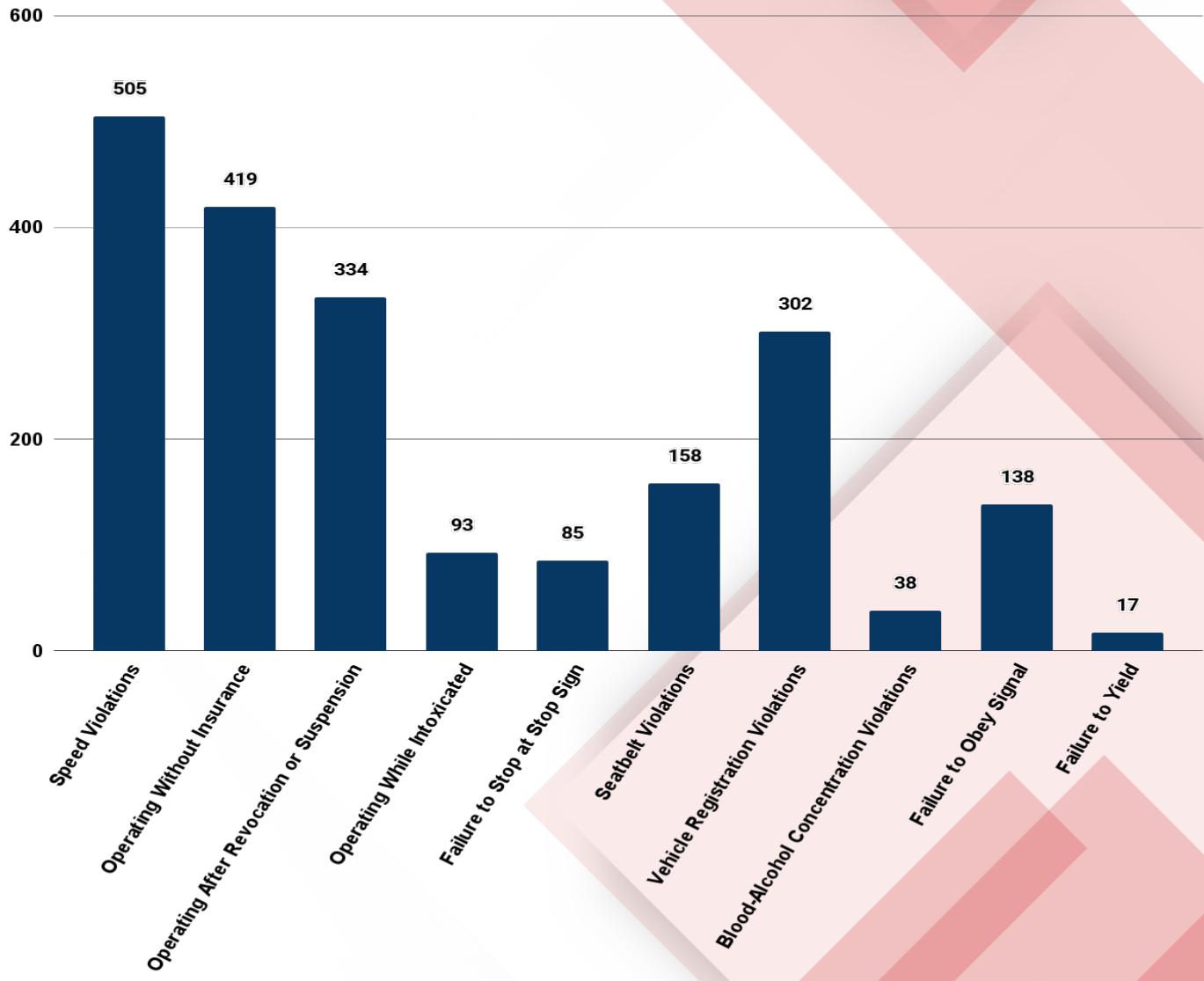
2024 showed a decrease of 18% in Juvenile arrests.

Clearance Rates



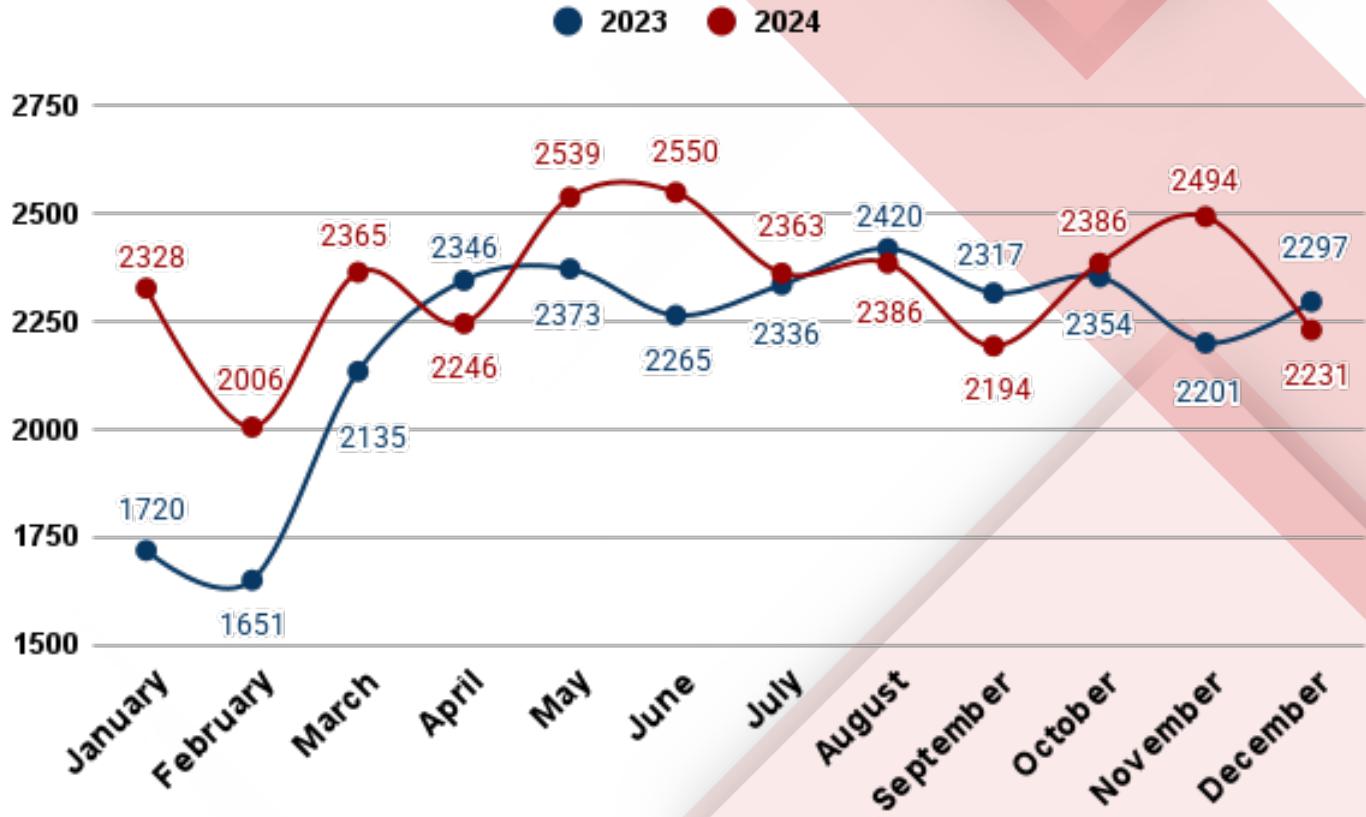
2024 showed SMPD's highest clearance rate in the last 5 years at 57.2%.

Traffic Citations



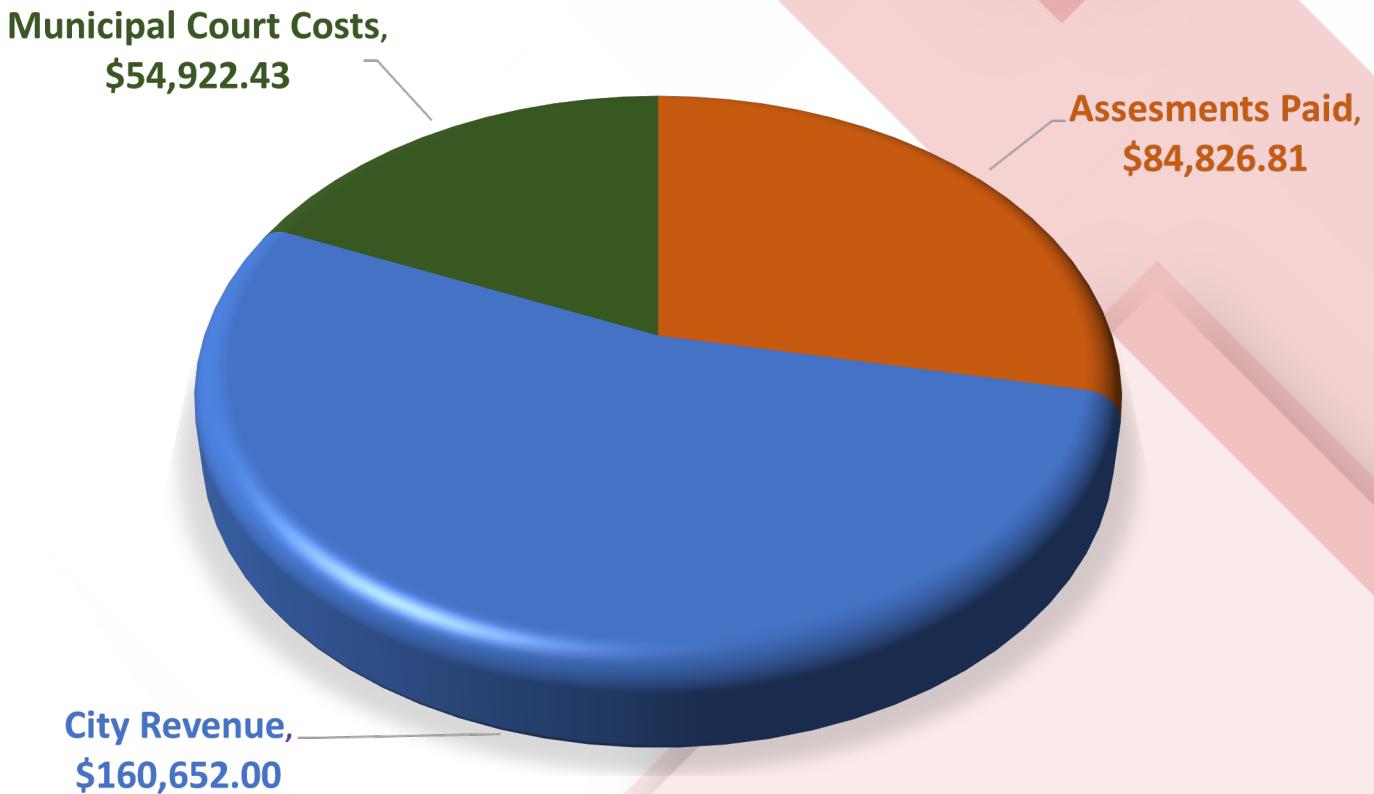
Officers have discretion in deciding how to resolve traffic violations. In some cases a verbal or written warning is appropriate, in other cases a traffic citation is necessary. The above graph shows some of the the more common citations given during 2024.

Calls for Service



Calls for Service fluctuate throughout the year, with the summer months usually being more demanding. 2024 showed a 6% increase in total Calls for Service.

Assessments Paid and Revenue Collected



Funds obtained from both Traffic and Non-Traffic Citations are dispersed to several different organizations. Net income from citations is deposited into South Milwaukee's General Fund.

The South Milwaukee Police Department Budget

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Salaries	\$2,889,420	\$3,166,028
Dispatchers	\$272,951	\$285,561
Custodial Wages	\$21,709	\$22,542
Fringe Benefits	\$1,385,871	\$1,571,914
Overtime	\$150,000	\$150,000
Comp Time	\$10,750	\$18,000
Holiday Pay	\$160,564	\$167,440
Physical Exams	\$2,850	\$2,850
Training Fees	\$14,550	\$14,550
Uniform Allowances	\$6,500	\$6,500
Conferences, etc.	\$1,500	\$1,500
Operating Supplies & Expense	\$74,000	\$74,000
Narcotic Control	\$250	\$250
Private Ambulance Service	\$1,000	\$1,000
Dues	\$1,600	\$1,600
Telephone	\$19,000	\$19,000
Heating Fuel	\$4,600	\$4,600
Maintenance of Office Equipment	\$10,000	\$10,000
Maintenance of Police Radios	\$15,000	\$15,000
Maintenance of Vehicles	\$60,000	\$65,000

SMPD Training

Expanding the knowledge base of our Officers and maintaining their skills is crucial to the performance of South Milwaukee Police Department. In 2024 Officers completed 3,281 hours of training. Training varies from topics such as Active Shooter Response to Courtroom Testimony.

3,281 Training Hours



Our Community

Officer Hill and Officer Horsley gave two lucky Rawson Elementary students a ride to school in a squad car



As a member of SMPD bike patrol, Officer Doering routinely patrols the streets of South Milwaukee on this Cheata motorized bicycle

Our Community



Officer Luczak teaches students bicycle safety at Lakeview Elementary

A SMPD squad car decorated for Christmas at the Commons



Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit responds to the diverse needs of our community in many ways, including organizing community policing events, conducting business and residential security surveys, assisting with neighborhood watch groups, and teaching civilian response to active shooter events (CRASE). In 2024, the Crime Prevention Unit organized SMPD's Community Night Out and Shop with a Cop. Crime Prevention Unit Officers also attended several other events, including LionsFest/Heritage Days, to engage with the citizens of the South Milwaukee Community.



South Shore Joint Tactical Unit

The South Shore Joint Tactical Unit is comprised of 36 officers from South Milwaukee, St. Francis and Cudahy PDs. This unit includes seven Crisis Negotiators and three Snipers. By combining with the other two communities, we are able to pool our resources and training to develop an effective team.

The purpose of the unit is to serve search warrants and respond to critical incidents, such as barricaded subjects and hostage situations. During 2024, the SSJTU served 8 search warrants.



Suburban Major Incident Response Team



The Suburban Major Incident Response Team (SMIRT) is comprised of officers and supervisors from 12 Police Departments in Milwaukee County. By combining resources, departments within this group are able to provide a fast and organized response to large scale civil disturbances.

In 2024 South Milwaukee officers responded with SMIRT to the Republican National Convention and a rally for Presidential Nominee, Kamala Harris.

Awards



Officer Steve Hesse, Officer Craig Perkowski, Officer Logan Staeg, Investigator Matt Kramer, Lt. Jason Walker, and Lt. David Hoeppner received Merit Awards for their contributions to a homicide investigation

Officer Brandon Meyer and Investigator Matt Kramer received Merit Awards for their role in a drug/child neglect investigation



Awards



Officer Draven Feustel received a Merit Award for subduing a suspect actively attacking a Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputy

Tony Girard (Tony G's Grant Park Garage) received a Citizen Recognition Award for his contributions to South Milwaukee Police Department and the City of South Milwaukee



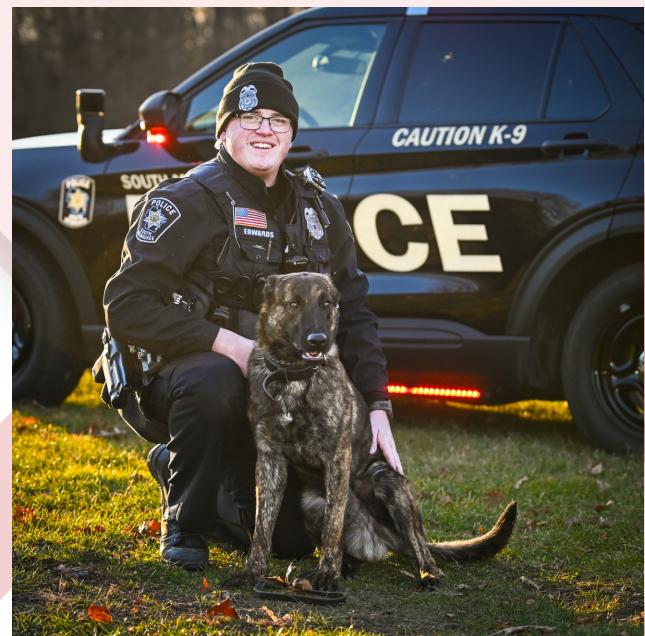
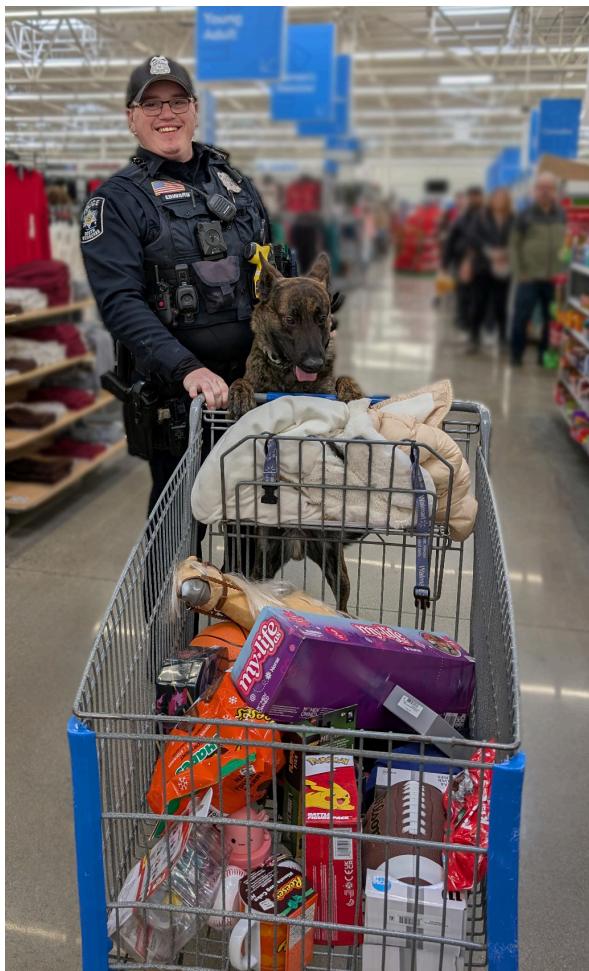
New Officer



Brittany Brandon received her Masters degree in Criminal Justice/ Criminology from UW-Milwaukee before joining SMPD. She enjoys video games and skiing in her free time.

Rocket

K-9 Rocket continues to patrol the community along with his handler, Officer Matthew Edwards. K-9 Rocket has been instrumental in searches for persons and articles during criminal and non-criminal investigations. K-9 Rocket continues to receive monthly training to keep his skills sharp.



Drone Program

In its efforts to remain at the forefront of technological advancements, the South Milwaukee Police Department has implemented a drone program. The use of a drone (Unmanned Aircraft System or UAS) has already led to the apprehension of several fleeing suspects and has assisted the South Milwaukee Fire Department during fire incidents.



Aerial perspective and the use of thermal imaging can help SMFD more effectively fight fires

Thermal imaging during hours of daylight or darkness assists in the location of wanted subjects or endangered persons

