



Annual Report

2022

INTRODUCTION

I present to you the Police Department's Year-End Report for calendar year 2022. This report will provide an overview of the activities of the police department throughout the year. The Rock Falls Police Department is committed to providing a safe environment for the citizens and visitors to the City of Rock Falls and will continue to develop strategies to combat criminal activity and public safety concerns throughout the city.

With new sections of the Safe-T Act legislation going into effect January 1, 2022, and July 1, 2022, there was much training to be conducted to ensure all officers have been trained on the changes in the laws. Additional new provisions go into effect January 1, 2023, which will eliminate cash bond in the State of Illinois and drastically change aspects of the operations of law enforcement throughout the state. The enactment of these provisions is in flux due to a ruling by a Kankakee County judge that portions of the law are unconstitutional, and an appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court has been filed. Whatever the outcome of the appeal, the Rock Falls Police Department will be as prepared as possible for these changes should they ultimately be enacted.

In mid to late 2021, the police department began taking steps to re-start the Police K-9 program. Applications for various grants have been submitted as well as taking the first steps in collecting donations from the community to procure a police dog and the necessary equipment. Over \$30,000 was raised in community donations and the department was awarded a grant of just under \$19,000. Officer Dustin Sugars was chosen to be the K9 handler and in October he attended training at FMK9 in Berrien Springs, Michigan. A Belgian Malinois/Dutch Shepard crossbreed named Fahgo was selected from the kennel to serve as our K9. One of the existing marked squads in the fleet was outfitted for service as the K9 vehicle. The team began service in November of 2022 and has already had numerous deployments with successful results. Having a trained narcotics detection dog will greatly enhance the department's abilities to combat illegal narcotics trafficking and the various property and violent crimes which are associated with it.

During the summer of 2022, 4 new marked patrol units were put into service to replace aging and failing 2014 and 2017 vehicles. Additionally, ARPA funds were used to upgrade the Deputy Chief's vehicle from a 2014 Chevy Impala to a 2021 Chevy Tahoe PPV which will be able to fill the role of an Incident Command vehicle and is far more suited to the needs of the position than the previous vehicle.

Throughout the summer, officers were assigned to various community events in the RB&W Park. Officers were on-site to provide security, public assistance, and to interact with the patrons of the

events. This was a popular and positive assignment for the officers. We look to continue and expand these details in 2023.

Beginning in November, the police department began inspecting and registering non-highway vehicles for use on city roads. As of the end of December, more than 20 such vehicles have been registered with more expected to apply in the spring. The revenue generated from the registrations has already surpassed the costs of acquiring the registration plates and stickers.

In December the police department held the annual Operation Santa Claus Christmas program helping 5 families in Rock Falls with a total of 17 children to provide Christmas gifts and a meal as well as other household needs. It is a welcomed reminder of our connection to serving the community.

In closing, we look forward to a successful and productive 2023 and look to continue the growth and improvements from the previous years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Pilgrim', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Pilgrim
Chief of Police

-STAFF-

<u>Name / Badge #</u>	<u>Rank / Position</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
David Pilgrim #900	Chief of Police	08/29/2001
Mark Davis #901	Deputy Chief	12/28/1998
Jeremy Vondra #909	Sergeant / Patrol	12/29/2003
Doug Wolber #908	Sergeant / Investigations	06/12/2006
Jonathan Cater #907	Sergeant / Patrol	02/11/2008
Ryan McKanna #904	Sergeant / Patrol	03/30/2015
Betony Gluff #906	Sergeant / Patrol	09/26/2011
Matthew McKanna #925	Sr. Patrol Officer	12/15/2014
Dustin Sugars #926	Sr. Patrol Officer / K-9	03/28/2016
Nick Nolte #927	Sr. Patrol Officer / Detective	01/03/2017
Ethan Riley #931	Sr. Patrol Officer	07/31/2017
Kari Anderson #930	Sr. Patrol Officer	11/17/2017
Autumn Day #935	Patrol Officer	05/14/2018
Zach Lyerla #932	Patrol Officer	12/03/2018
Mitch Ottenhausen #921	Patrol Officer / Detective	02/04/2019
Kristian Montanez #922	Patrol Officer	03/18/2019
Jerrod Reynolds #934	Patrol Officer	08/05/2019
Brian Diaz #928	Patrol Officer	06/07/2021
Rollie Elder #923	Patrol Officer	11/01/2021
Mark Thatcher #929	School Resource Officer (part-time)	07/01/2022
Kristofer Perez #924	Patrol Officer	10/08/2022
Amy Stoeckel	Police Administrative Assistant	09/18/2006
Pam Henderson	Police Clerk	09/13/2004
Joy Colberg	Police Clerk	09/06/2011

APPOINTMENTS

Kristofer Perez was appointed on 10/08/2022 and graduated the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy on 12/09/2022. Officer Perez is the son of retired Rock Falls Police Chief Humberto Perez.



K9 Fahgo was acquired in November from FMK9 in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is an 18-month-old Belgian Malinois / Dutch Shepard mix and is trained in narcotics detection, tracking, and article searches. He is assigned to handler Dustin Sugars.



Mark Thatcher was appointed to the position in July of 2022 to serve as the School Resource Officer on a part-time basis for the 2022-2023 school year. Mark is a retired Illinois State Trooper with nearly 30 years of experience.



ASSIGNMENTS

To provide Patrol Officers the opportunity to gain experience with investigations and to broaden the knowledge base of all Rock Falls officers, those officers who have shown an interest in serving as Detectives and who have displayed above average knowledge and skills as patrol officers will be considered for a rotating assignment to the Investigations Section.

Matt McKanna was moved to the Patrol division after 3+ years in the Investigations Section.

Nick Nolte was assigned to the Investigations Section to take the position previously held by Matt McKanna.

Mitch Ottenhausen was assigned to the Investigations Section in December to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Julia Deets.

RESIGNATIONS

In January, Zak Bittner resigned to accept a position with an out of state law enforcement agency.

In October Julia Deets resigned to accept a position with the Illinois State Police.

-POLICE VEHICLE INVENTORY-



Four new 2022 Ford Interceptor Utility squads were put in service to replace the last of the 2014 and the 2017 marked squads. The entire Rock Falls Police fleet is now 2020 or newer. This should help reduce maintenance costs and increase reliability of the patrol units.

One of the 2017 Fords that was replaced was repurposed to be used by the Chief and the other retained to be used for utility purposes. The Impala previously assigned to the Chief was reassigned to the Investigations Section to replace an older vehicle which will be kept and used as a utility vehicle.

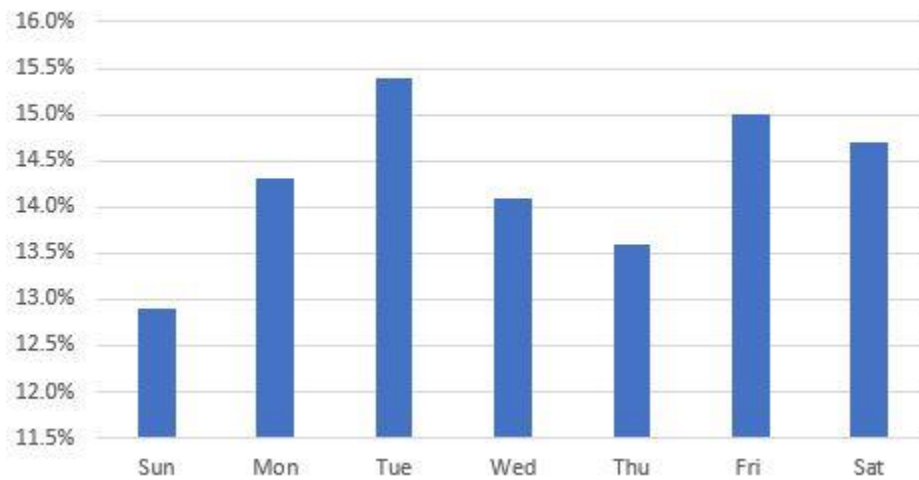
A 2021 Chevy Tahoe was purchased from another law enforcement agency to be used as an Incident Command Vehicle and is assigned to the Deputy Chief. The Impala previously assigned to the Deputy Chief was reassigned to the Investigations Section to replace an older vehicle which was subsequently repurposed for use by the School Resource Officer.

UNIT #	Make/Model	Assignment
1	Ford Transit	SRT
2	2022 Ford Police Interceptor Utility	Patrol
3	2020 Ford Police Interceptor Utility	Patrol
4	2022 Ford Police Interceptor Utility	Patrol
5	2020 Ford Police Interceptor Utility	Patrol
6	2022 Ford Police Interceptor Utility	Patrol
7	2022 Ford Police Interceptor Utility	Patrol
8		
9	2020 Ford Police Interceptor Utility	K9
10	2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utility	Chief
11	2012 Chevy Impala	Investigations
12	2011 Chevy Impala	Utility / Training / Court
13	2014 Chevy Impala	Investigations
14	2011 Chevy Impala	SRO / Utility
15	2014 Chevy Impala	Investigations Sergeant
16	2021 Chevy Tahoe PPV	Deputy Chief / Incident Command
17	2017 Ford Police Interceptor	Utility / Training / Court

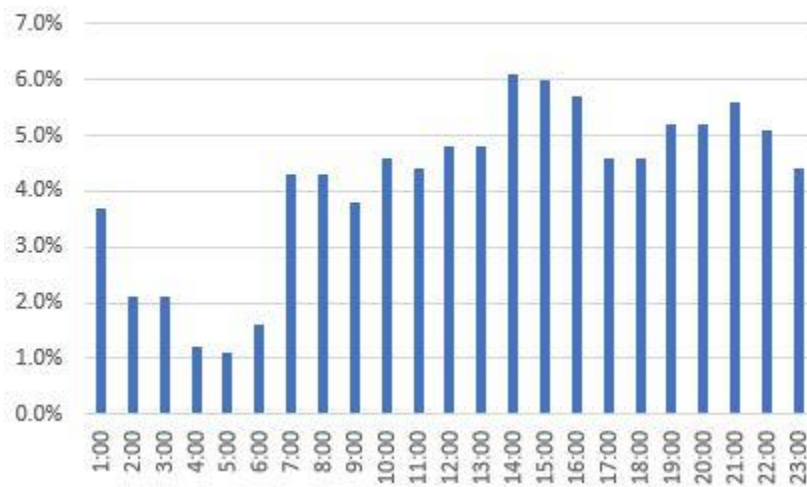
-CALLS FOR SERVICE-

	2020	2021	2022
Total calls for year	10553	10803 (+2.3%)	11040 (+2.2%)
Murder	0	2	0
Sexual Assault / Abuse	29	24	31
Robbery	3	0	2
Aggravated Battery	12	22	38
Aggravated Assault	9	7	7
Battery	41	34	52
Domestic Battery	36	45	91
Domestic Violence	352	377	213
Disorderly Conduct / Harassment	673	807	693
Residential Burglary	16	11	12
Burglary (non-residence)	26	10	25
Weapon Offenses	7	15	8
Theft	339	225	199
Arson	4	1	2
ID Theft / Deception / Forgery / Fraud	110	126	65
Criminal Damage / Vandalism	175	166	79
Criminal Trespassing	120	134	99
Suspicious Activity	620	445	456
Child Abuse / Neglect	12	21	36
Narcotics Offenses	65	57	47
Cannabis Offenses	6	12	45
Juvenile Status Offenses	115	158	163
Resisting/Obstructing/Fleeing	12	14	22
Warrant Arrests	105	171	146
Business/Building/Area Checks	136	43	418
Civil Complaints	307	399	422
Medical Assists	155	140	148
Mental Health Response	60	87	140
Other Public Services	885	914	1011
Assist Other Agency	663	642	716

Percentage of Calls for Service by Day



Percentage of Calls for Service by Hour



-TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT-



Citations and Warnings Issued

The table below includes common offenses and is not inclusive of all offenses for which a citation or warning was issued.

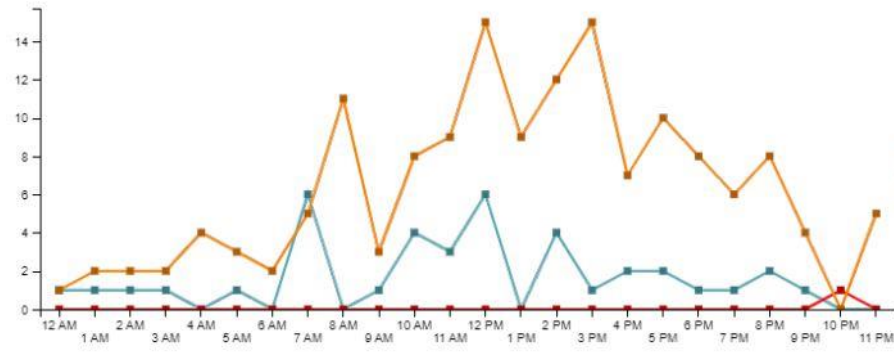
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Speeding	410	528	529
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs	47	79	44
Traffic Control Sign	98	115	125
Traffic Control Signal	31	40	46
Failure to Yield	27	23	47
Leaving the Scene of an Accident	19	8	3
Registration Violations	41	97	189
Insurance Violations	83	79	86
Failure to Signal	20	20	35
Occupant Restraint Violations	16	5	9
Lane Use Violations	30	51	64
Driving While License Suspended/Revoked/Expired/No Valid DL	113	141	117
Total Citations + Warnings Issued (all offenses)	1205	1611	1803

-TRAFFIC CRASHES-

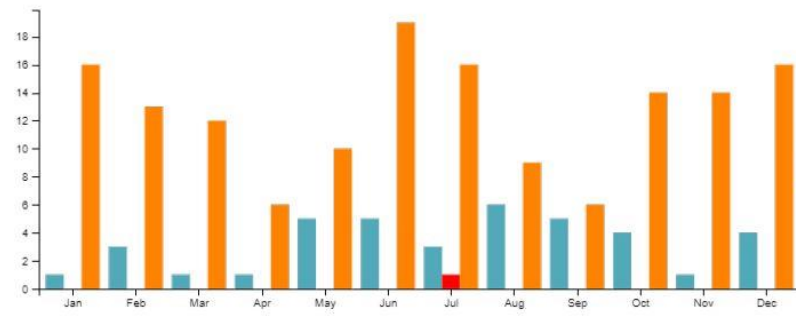


<u>Month</u>	<u>Property Damage Only</u>	<u>Injury</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	16	1	0	17
February	13	3	0	14
March	12	1	0	13
April	6	1	0	7
May	10	5	0	15
June	19	5	0	24
July	16	3	1	20
August	9	6	0	15
September	6	5	0	11
October	15	4	0	19
November	15	1	0	16
December	16	4	0	20
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>193</u>

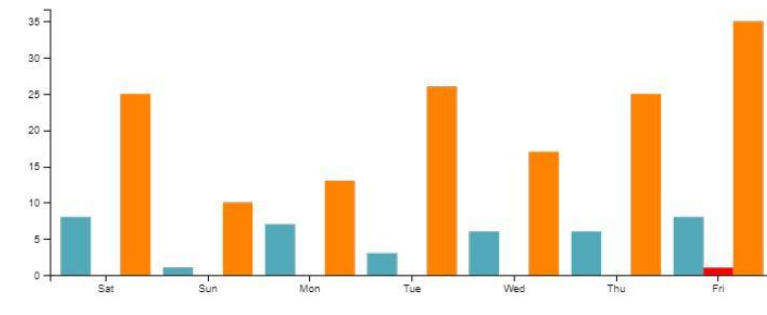
By Time of Day



By Month



By Day of Week



-Investigations Division-

Personnel:

Doug Wolber, Detective Sergeant
Nick Nolte, Detective
Mitch Ottenhausen, Detective

Statistics:

393 - Pieces of evidence were processed and logged
5 - Burglary/Robbery
19 - Theft/Fraud
25 - Sex Assault/Abuse
6 – Child Abuse/Neglect
10 – Death Investigations
8 – Battery/Assault
2 – Arson
1 – Unauthorized Video Recording
13 – Adult Arrests
30 – Search Warrants
18 – Subpoena/Court Orders
12 – After Hour Call-Outs
40 – April House Interviews
55 – Assists/Follow-ups for Patrol
28 – Assist Other Agencies
44 – Follow-ups for States Attorney
19 – Training courses
6 – Garbage Pulls
2 – Drug Buys
375 – Investigation Follow-ups
2 – Child Pornography
1 – Department Internal
3 – Background Checks for New Hires (2 fire fighters, one police officer)

Overview:

2022 had a noticeable increase in sexual assault cases over previous years. The Investigations Section handled **25** new sexual assault cases which averages out to approximately **2** new cases each month. This is a **100%** increase in sexual assault cases from 2021. The Investigations Section attended **40** April House interviews. These are specialized interviews of minors who are victims to or witnesses of crimes.

The Investigations Section became part of the Illinois Attorney General's Office Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force in mid-2022. The ICAC Task Force investigates reports of child pornography distribution, child exploitation, and child sexual abuse perpetrated online. The investigations typically consist of several subpoenas and search warrants which narrow down locations, devices, individual's names, and electronic programs or applications used to download and/or distribute

child pornography. The Investigations Section investigated 2 ICAC cases. The first case resulted in the arrest of an adult male. The second case led to a warrant and search of a residence. Many electronics were removed and transported to digital forensic experts. Child pornography was located on two devices owned by a male juvenile living at the residence. His arrest is pending review from the States Attorney's Office.

Whiteside County saw an increase in drug related deaths in 2022. These deaths, in most cases, were directly tied to the drug fentanyl. The Rock Falls Police Department Investigations Section investigated five deaths that were directly related to the use and overdose of fentanyl.

In June, Detective Matthew McKanna was assigned to patrol and Officer Nick Nolte transitioned into that open Detective position. In October, Detective Deets resigned from the Rock Falls Police Department leaving the Investigations Section short-staffed for approximately two months. During this time, drug investigations had to be placed in pending status. In December, Chief Pilgrim assigned Officer Mitch Ottenhausen to the Investigations Section.

Outlook:

In the short time that Nolte and Ottenhausen have been assigned to the Investigations Section, they both have not only received new cases but reopened several past cases that were not yet fully completed by McKanna and Deets. They have both proven they can handle the case load and are expressing their excitement and interest in becoming more involved in drug interdiction cases.

With the addition of our new K-9 Unit, drug details can now be planned out and executed without the timely process of scheduling with other agencies K-9 Units.

Goals for 2023:

- Expediting the process of acquiring arrest warrants/case status through the States Attorney's Office.
- Managing any slow/down time to begin drug investigations/drug details.
- Continue to be open and available to speak to the residents of Rock Falls when they believe they have possible drug activity in their neighborhood.
- Continue to work side by side with surrounding agencies in a collaborative approach to criminal activity.
- Staying updated with active patrol officers. The active officers are a wealth of knowledge for updates on street crime activity.

Doug Wolber #1054
Detective Sergeant

-COMMUNITY RELATIONS-

Operation: Santa Claus

Over \$4000 raised, 5 families and 17 children benefited from the annual Operation Santa Claus program in 2022.



Chief Pilgrim, Sergeant Gluff, Officer Day, Officer Lyerla, and Records Clerk Joy Colberg, with help from their families did the shopping and gift wrapping. Sergeant Ryan McKanna, Officer Elder, Zayden Lyerla, Jon Colberg (Santa) and Police Clerk Pam Henderson helped with the delivery of gifts on a frigid Christmas Eve.






Sergeant Gluff, Officer Montanez, and Officer Sugars presented a gift basket to a 9-year-old who called 9-1-1 to report a burglary in progress which resulted in the arrest of the offender.



Officers worked details during various riverfront events providing security and assistance.



Officers Diaz and Anderson, along with Officers Kraus and Russell of the Sterling Police Department cooling off on a hot day with some fresh locally made lemonade.



Wednesday, August 24, 2022
 8:00am-10:00am
 @
 Hardee's
 503 1st Avenue
 Rock Falls


Building community, one cup of coffee at a time.

Join your neighbors and police officers
for coffee and conversation!

No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your community.

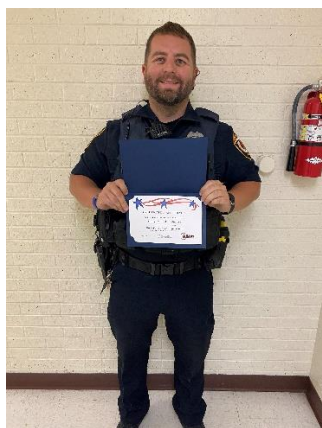
Presented by:

Rock Falls
Police Department





-AWARDS-



Officers Ottenhausen, Sugars, Diaz, and Lyerla were recognized by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists for their outstanding work in enforcement of impaired driver laws.



Detective Julia Deets was named Officer of the Year, an award sponsored by the Sterling Optimist Club. Along with officers from the Whiteside County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, and Sterling Police Department, Detective Deets was recognized at an awards banquet for her outstanding service to the community as an Investigator.

-TRAINING-

Officer training is a very high priority. The Rock Falls Police Department devotes substantial time and resources to ensure all officers receive more than the minimum required training. State mandated training constitutes a substantial portion of the year's training, and all officers are kept compliant with Illinois mandated training.

Throughout the year, officers attended training on many topics and areas. Where possible, the Rock Falls Police Department utilizes in-house trainers (Chief Pilgrim, Sergeant Vondra, Sergeant Wolber, Sergeant Cater, Officer Sugars, Officer Reynolds, Officer Ottenhausen) or local training opportunities. Taking advantage of local talent helps to stretch the training budget.

Every month officers are required to train with their issued weapon as well as being required to maintain up to the date information on state laws and case law that affects them. Officers also participate in force-on-force active threat training annually. Officers who are part of the Twin City Special Response Team train quarterly with the team. All officers who are issued Tasers are required to re-certify each year.

Some of the non-mandated training attended by RFPD officers in 2022:

- Active Shooter Response Train-the-Trainer
- Control Tactics Instructor
- Casualty Care / Tactical Medic
- Report Writing
- Use of Force Decision Making
- Internet Crimes Against Children Investigation
- PTSD Awareness
- Organizational Stress Management
- Women of Criminal Justice Conference
- Illinois Chiefs of Police Association Annual Conference
- Illinois Drug Enforcement Officers Annual Conference
- Illinois Public Pension Fund Conference
- Interview and Interrogation
- School Resource Officer
- K-9 School
- Advanced Patrol Tactics and Drug Interdiction

All told, officers spent over 1200 hours in training over the course of the year.

Training will continue to be a priority as the responsibilities placed on officers increases and the mandated training list grows. Additionally, officers in leadership positions and those who aspire to leadership roles will be attending training to develop those skill to place them in a position to succeed as the next generation of RFPD leaders.

-K-9 Fahgo-



Early in 2022, fundraising began in earnest with the goal of restarting the K-9 Program. Over \$30,000 was raised from various donors and fundraisers. With the addition of a \$19,000 grant the Rock Falls Police Department was able to outfit an existing patrol vehicle, procure a dog and all necessary equipment and supplies, and send an officer to training as a K-9 handler. Officer Dustin Sugars attended training beginning at the end of October in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He and K9 Fahgo completed training in late-November and are assigned to 2:00pm – 2:00am patrol shift.



The support of the community in achieving this goal was incredible!