



Annual Report
2020

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Rock Falls Police Department

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Chief of Police
Tammy J. Nelson

Operations Commander
Mark Davis

Mayor
William Wescott

Administrative Commander
David Pilgrim

January 5, 2021

Mayor Wescott
Rock Falls City Council

Mayor Wescott and City Council Members:

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report for the year 2020. This report provides an overview of the operations of the Police Department over the last year. I am honored to have been selected to succeed Chief Nelson in this position and look forward to many more years of service to the City of Rock Falls.

This past year presented the police department, and the city as a whole, with some of the most challenging times in memory. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the department's operations in many ways. Though we were fortunate to not have seen many of our staff become sick, we continue to work under altered conditions to reduce the risk of infections. The pandemic also had an effect on availability of training. While officers were still able to receive their mandated minimum training requirements, most discretionary and higher-level training opportunities were simply not offered.

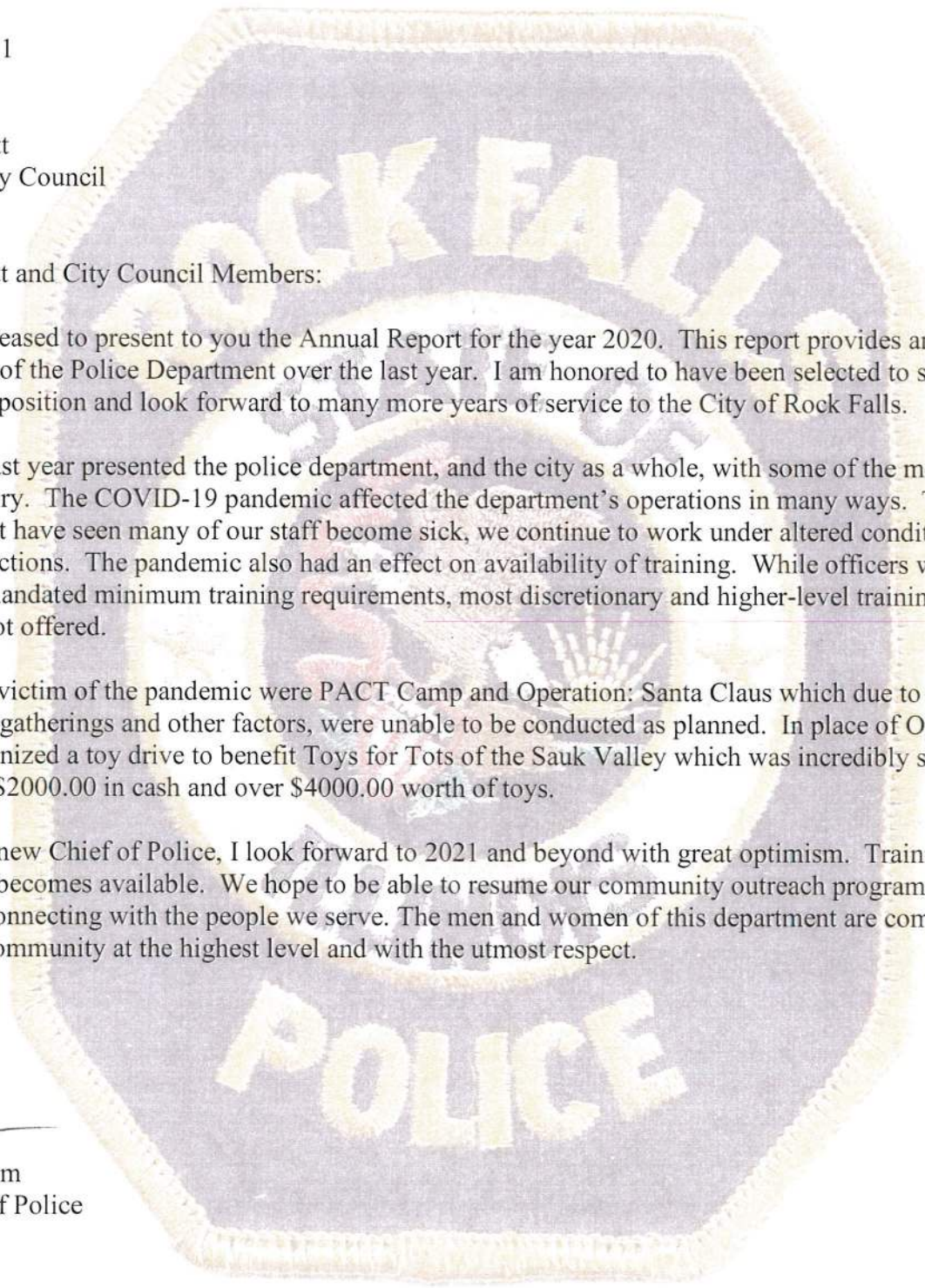
Also a victim of the pandemic were PACT Camp and Operation: Santa Claus which due to various restrictions on gatherings and other factors, were unable to be conducted as planned. In place of Operation: Santa Claus, we organized a toy drive to benefit Toys for Tots of the Sauk Valley which was incredibly successful and gathered over \$2000.00 in cash and over \$4000.00 worth of toys.

As the new Chief of Police, I look forward to 2021 and beyond with great optimism. Training will remain a priority as it becomes available. We hope to be able to resume our community outreach programs and explore new ways of connecting with the people we serve. The men and women of this department are committed to serving their community at the highest level and with the utmost respect.

Sincerely,



David L. Pilgrim
Acting Chief of Police



"Proud of Our Past-Confident of Our Future"

Employee Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Rank</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
David Pilgrim	Acting Chief of Police	08/29/2001
Mark Davis	Operations Commander	12/28/1998
Jeremy Vondra	Detective Sergeant	12/29/2003
Doug Wolber	Patrol Sergeant	06/12/2006
Jonathan Cater	Patrol Sergeant	02/11/2008
Ryan McKanna	Patrol Sergeant	03/30/2015
Betony Wade	Patrol Sergeant	09/26/2011
Jarrett Ludwig	Patrol Officer/School Resource	05/03/2010
Julia Deets	Detective/BATF	04/05/2013
Matthew McKanna	Detective	12/15/2014
Dustin Sugars	Patrol Officer	03/28/2016
Nick Nolte	Patrol Officer	01/03/2017
David Gottemoller	Patrol Officer	03/27/2017
Ethan Riley	Patrol Officer	07/31/2017
Kari Anderson	Patrol Officer	11/17/2017
Autumn Day	Patrol Officer	05/14/2018
Zach Lyerla	Patrol Officer	12/03/2018
Zak Bittner	Patrol Officer	05/13/2019
Mitch Ottenhausen	Patrol Officer	02/04/2019
Kristian Montanez	Patrol Officer	03/18/2019
Jerrod Reynolds	Patrol Officer	08/05/2019
Amy Stoeckel	Police Administrative Assistant	09/18/2006*
Pam Henderson	Police Clerk	09/13/2004
Joy Colberg	Police Clerk	09/06/2011

*Amy Stoeckel was an RFPD dispatcher before moving to Code Enforcement in May of 2014

APPOINTMENTS

David Pilgrim – Chief of Police

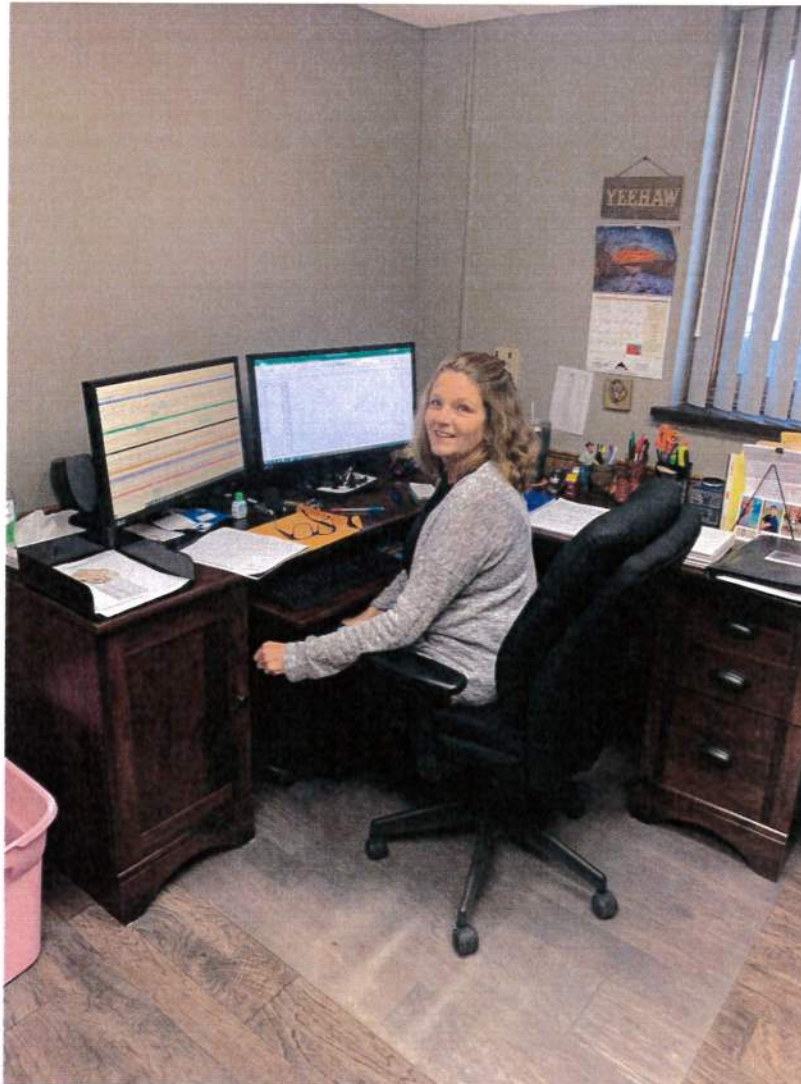
In September of 2020 the city selected Administrative Commander David Pilgrim to succeed Tammy Nelson as Chief of Police upon her retirement. He became Acting Police Chief in December. David is a 19-year veteran of the Department and has served in many roles throughout his career with Rock Falls PD.



APPOINTMENTS

Amy Stoeckel – Police Administrative Assistant

Amy was originally hired by Rock Falls PD in 2006 as a dispatcher. In 2014 she went to work for Code Enforcement, replacing Joan Atilano. In 2020, the position of Police Administrative Assistant was vacant and Amy was chosen for the job based on her knowledge and experience. She has proven herself to be an invaluable member of the department.



RETIREMENTS

Chief Tammy Nelson and Lacey

In mid-2020 Chief Tammy Nelson announced she would be retiring at the end of the year after 30 years of service to the City of Rock Falls. Tammy started in 1991 and worked as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Commander and Operations Commander. Her last day in office was December 18th.

Also retiring with Chief Nelson is Lacey, the Police Department's comfort dog since 2016.

Both will be greatly missed.



RETIREMENTS

Senior Patrolman James Hollaway

Patrolman James Hollaway retired in September 2020 after 22 years of service





Police Vehicle Inventory

Unit #	Year	Make/Model	Mileage	Assignment
1	2020	Ford Transit T-150	50	ERT Team*
2	2014	Ford Interceptor Utility	126,374	Patrol
3	2020	Ford Interceptor Utility	10,374	Patrol
4	2014	Ford Interceptor Utility	128,641	Patrol
5	2020	Ford Interceptor Utility	8,459	Patrol
6	2017	Ford Interceptor Utility	66,865	Patrol
7	2017	Ford Interceptor Utility	80,034	Patrol
8	2020	Ford Interceptor Utility	5,010	Patrol
11	2012	Chevy Impala (gold)	57,382	Pilgrim
12	2014	Chevy Impala (silver)	81,041	Vondra
13	2014	Chevy Impala (black)	55,887	Davis
14	2011	Chevy Impala (black)	78,577	M. McKanna
15	2014	Chevy Impala (red)	57,709	Unassigned

*Vehicle registered and insured by RFPD, shared with Sterling PD for ERT Team use

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Type of Call	2018	2019	2020
Battery	59	77	41
Aggravated Battery	18	23	11
Aggravated Assault	2	5	8
Felony Sexual Assault/Abuse	13	23	16
Robbery	4	1	2
Deceptive Practices, Fraud, Forgery	128	108	106
Criminal Damage to Property	142	180	165
Criminal Trespassing	126	109	120
Unlawful Use of Weapons	5	4	6
Misdemeanor Sex Offense	25	11	6
Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment	31	37	11
Juvenile Status Offenses	107	147	109
Reckless Driving	123	114	108
Disorderly Conduct / Harassment	551	706	671
Domestic Violence	375	391	327
Warrant Arrests	288	203	105
Assist Other Agencies	1395	1397	468*
Alarm Response	193	169	160
Suspicious Activity	562	547	619
Animal Complaints	270	276	209
Mental Health Problems	38	65	60
Sex Offender Registration	160	189	217
Fingerprinting service	71	94	50
Motorist Assists / Escorts	182	160	161
Vehicle Lock Outs	321	268	168

Civil Complaints	355	308	306
Medical Assists	166	189	155
Ordinance Violations	790	501	350**

*dispatch changed the way they categorize these calls so they show up in many other categories

**Code Enforcement no longer enters their calls into the dispatch CAD system so their numbers are not tracked by the PD

ROCK FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Part 1 Arrests

2020

Arrest of individuals for those offenses designated as "Part 1 Offenses" by the Federal Government

Offense	2020
Homicide	0
Criminal Sexual Assault	2
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault / Aggravated Battery	18
Burglary	16
Theft	15
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Arson	0
Unlawful Possession of Cannabis	12
Unlawful Possession of Controlled Substance	6
Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	14
Resisting a Peace Officer	27
Obstruction of Justice	3

Rock Falls Police Department

Investigations Division

2020 Year-End Report

Personnel:

Jeremy Vondra, Detective Sergeant

Matthew McKanna, Detective

Julia Deets, Detective (Assigned to the Blackhawk Area Task Force)

Overview:

As it was for everyone, 2020 was a challenging year for the Investigations Division. With COVID lockdowns, activities that had once been routine such as conducting follow-up with businesses or individuals, working with the States Attorney's Office, or exchanging evidence with the crime lab became more difficult and time consuming. Additionally, backlogs of cases at the States Attorney's Office caused a trickle-down effect to everyone. With 2020 behind us, we will continue to pursue cases that were backlogged, with several arrests/arrest warrants pending. As 2021 begins, the Rock Falls Police Department's Investigations Division is looking forward to starting fresh and continuing to provide professional and thorough service to the citizens of Rock Falls.

Throughout 2020, 63 new cases were referred to the Investigations Division. Investigation of these cases resulted in 8 arrests. Sex offenses and theft related crimes continued to be the major types of cases referred to the Investigations Division. Theft and theft related cases such as burglary and deception/fraud were a major problem in Rock Falls. Typically, these cases can be directly related to the drug trade, specifically to the use of methamphetamine.

In 2020, the investigations division handled numerous sex assault cases. These cases required that 22 forensic interviews of children be conducted at April House and various other Child Advocacy Centers.

Detectives continued to work closely with the Patrol Division, other agencies, and the States Attorney's Office by assisting and/or conducting follow-up on 24 occasions.

In 2020, RFPD Detectives obtained 16 search warrants or other court orders (subpoenas, etc.).

The Investigations Division took in and processed almost 420 individual exhibits of evidence in 2020.

Detective Julia Deets (Blackhawk Area Task Force): Detective Deets handled 20 cases with the Blackhawk Area Task Force. These cases lead to 8 arrests, and the seizure of 2,158 grams of cannabis, 181.02 grams of cocaine, 234.4 grams of crack cocaine, 124.4 grams of heroin, 4 grams of fentanyl, 15.75 grams of methamphetamine, and 53.9 grams of various other pharmaceutical drugs. The Blackhawk Area Task Force handled a total of 77 cases which lead to

Rock Falls Police Department

Investigations Division

2020 Year-End Report

33 arrests and the seizure of 2,163.1 grams of cannabis, 199.42 grams of cocaine, 234.2 grams of crack cocaine, 4 ecstasy pills, 4 grams of fentanyl, 152.9 grams heroin, 116.803 grams of methamphetamine, 53.9 grams of various other pharmaceutical drugs, and 2 grams of other dangerous drugs.

Training was also limited in 2020. Detective McKanna attended the 40 Hour Lead Homicide Investigator Certification. Sergeant Vondra attended an 8-hour class on Mental Health/Crisis Intervention.

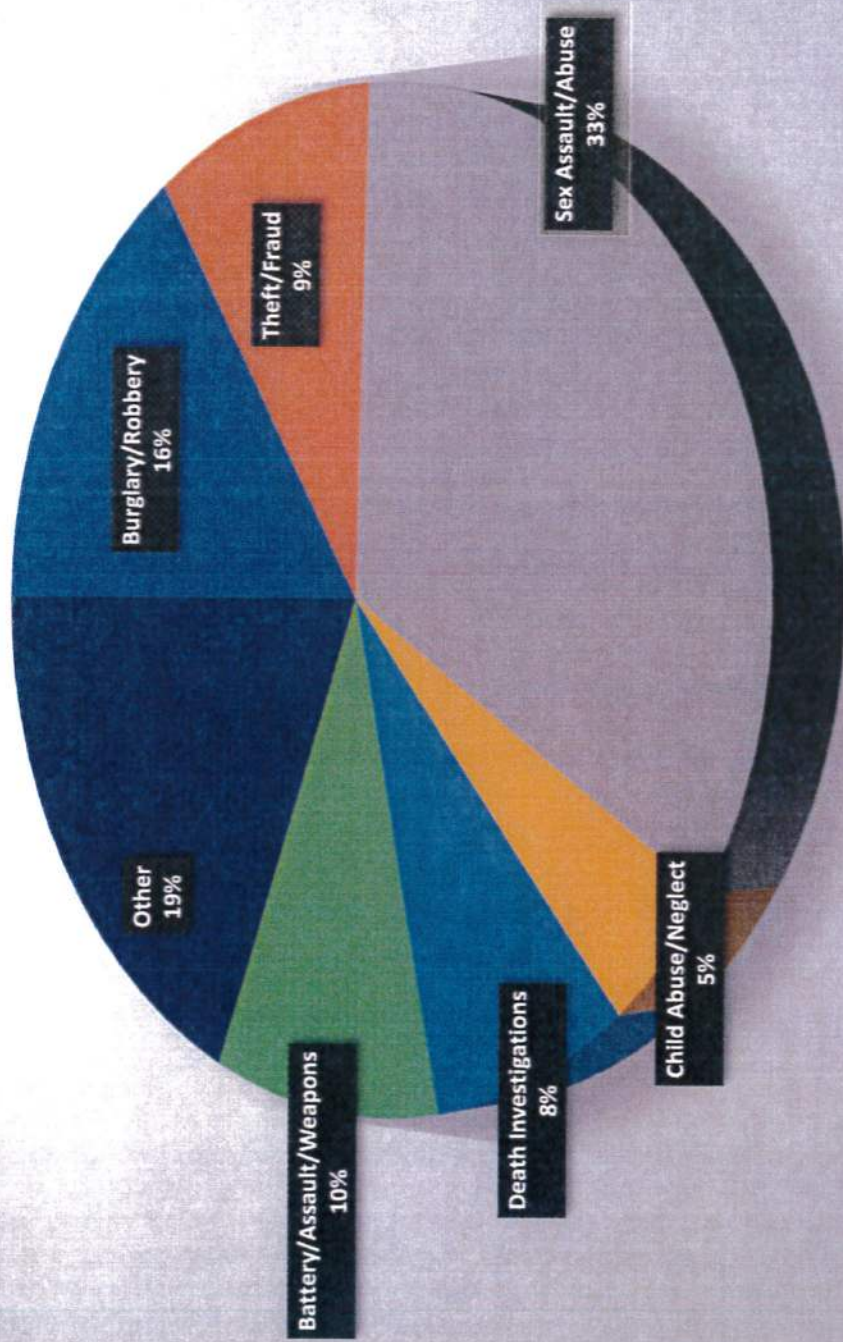
2020 Major Cases:

January: RFPD Investigations Division was called out following the discovery of a badly decomposed body in an apartment. Due to the circumstances surrounding the death and the discovery of the body, the investigation was treated as a homicide. Following a lengthy and extremely involved investigation, it was determined that the case could not be prosecuted as a homicide as the forensic pathologist was unable to unequivocally rule on a cause of death.

July: RFPD Investigations Division played a significant role as part of a multijurisdictional taskforce that was put together to apprehend 2 fugitives who were wanted out of South Carolina for homicide. The taskforce included the FBI, US Marshals, Illinois State Police, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Whiteside County Sheriff's Office, Sterling Police Department, and Dixon Police Department. Following a very involved investigation, the fugitives were apprehended.

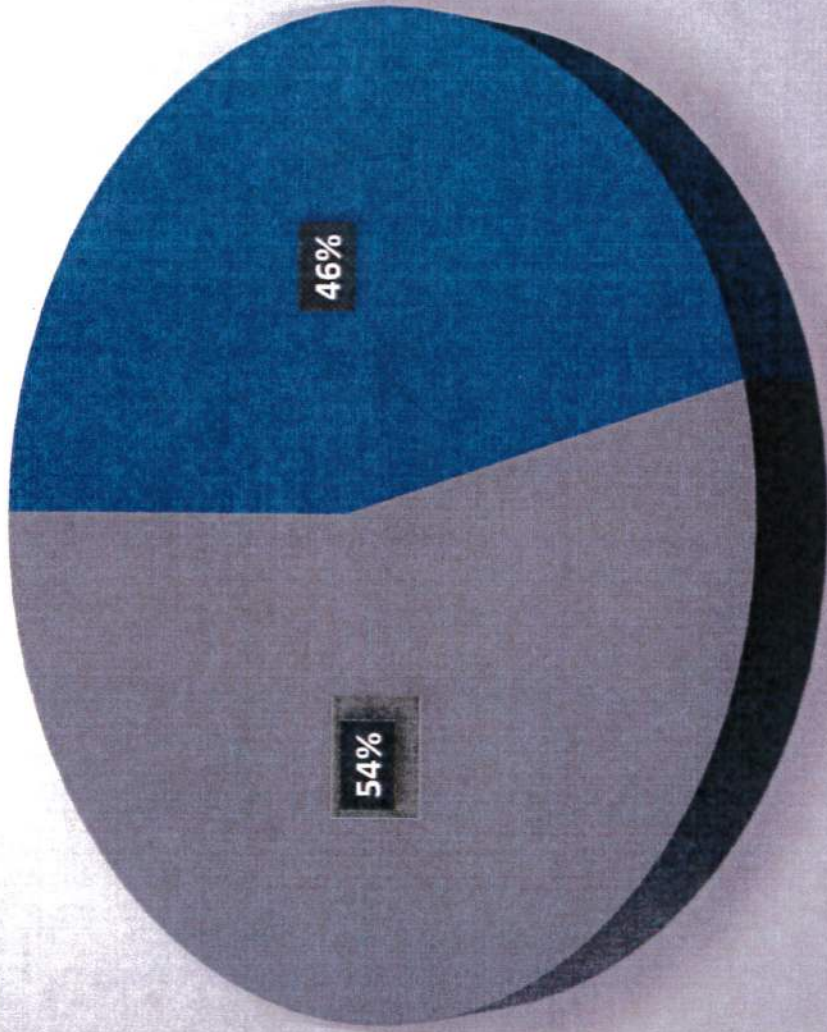
Jeremy Vondra
Detective Sergeant

Rock Falls Police Department Investigations Division 2020 Stats By Type of Crimes



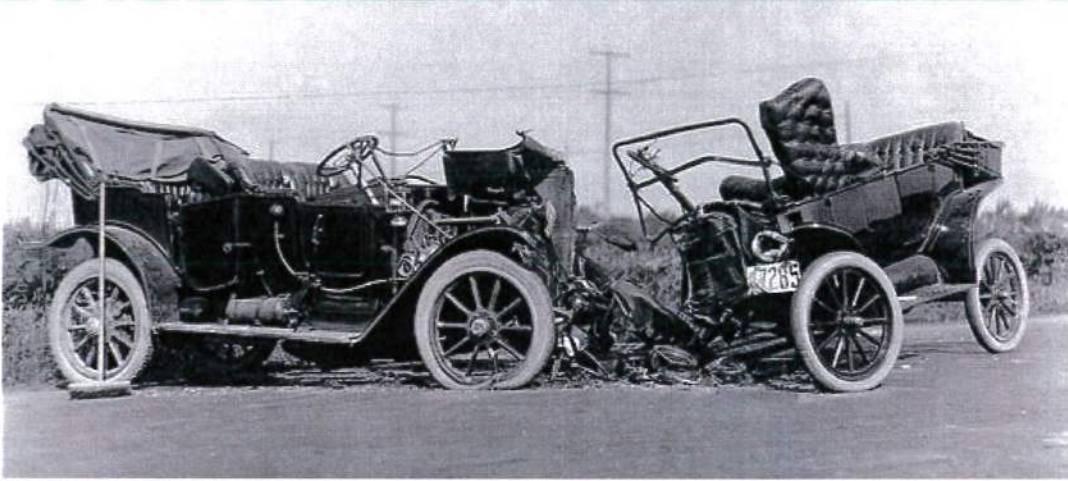
- Burglary/Robbery
- Theft/Fraud
- Sex Assault/Abuse
- Child Abuse/Neglect
- Death Investigations
- Battery/Assault/Weapons
- Other

Rock Falls Police Department Investigations Division 2020 Cases Related to the Drug Trade.



- Cases related to drug trade
- Cases not related to the drug trade

TRAFFIC CRASHES



<u>MONTH</u>	<u>INJURY</u>	<u>PROPERTY DAMAGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	4	16	20
February	4	10	14
March	2	9	11
April	2	10	12
May	4	11	15
June	0	7	7
July	2	9	11
August	3	10	13
September	0	18	18
October	2	14	16
November	4	19	23
December	2	9	11
TOTAL	29	142	171

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT



<u>Offense</u>	<u># of Citations Issued</u>
Speeding	410
Driving Under the Influence	47
Traffic Control Device (sign)	98
Traffic Signal	31
Failure to Yield	27
Leaving the Scene of an Accident	19
Improper Lighting	16
Other Equipment Violations	18
Other Moving Violations	19
Improper Registration	41
Operating an Uninsured Vehicle	83
Headlight Violations	62
Taillight Violations	18
Failure to Signal	20
No Seat Belt	16
Driver's License Violations	113
Lane Use Violations	30
Illegal Transportation of Alcohol	10
Fleeing to Elude	7

Offense Summary

From : 1/1/2020 - To : 12/31/2020

01/08/2021

TYPE=ALL OFFENSE=ALL

<i>Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Amount Due</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>
108	48 HOUR PARKING	15	\$80.00	\$260.00
109	30 MINUTE PARKING ON W 2ND ST	1	\$0.00	\$20.00
111	PROHIBITED PARKING AREA	6	\$0.00	\$100.00
114	NO PARKING 8AM TO 4PM	5	\$250.00	\$80.00
115	NO PARKING IN ALLEY	3	\$0.00	\$80.00
117	SNOW EMERGENCY PARKING(157EMER,158DOWNTOWN)	7	\$100.00	\$0.00
118	HANDICAPPED PARKING	5	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
119	FIRE LANE & HYDRANT PARKING	9	\$750.00	\$300.00
149	EXPIRED REGISTRATION PLATES/STICKER	15	\$500.00	\$1,075.00
166	FAILURE TO YIELD TO EMERGENCY VEHICLE	1	\$0.00	\$75.00
171	ILLEGAL SCREECHING OF TIRES	1	\$0.00	\$75.00
174	IMPROPER DISPLAY OF LICENSE PLATES/STICKER	2	\$0.00	\$75.00
177	IMPROPER OPERATION OF NON-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (ATV, MO	3	\$500.00	\$150.00
178	IMPROPER PARKING ON ROADWAY	2	\$225.00	\$0.00
188	LOUD MUFFLER	1	\$0.00	\$75.00
197	NO SEAT BELT	8	\$550.00	\$300.00
199	NO VALID DL (LESS THAN 1 YR)	2	\$0.00	\$150.00
200	NO VALID REGISTRATION	5	\$150.00	\$550.00
204	OBSTRUCTED VIEW OF ANY WINDOW	1	\$0.00	\$75.00
207	OPERATING OF BIKE WITHOUT LAMP AND REFLECTORS	1	\$0.00	\$75.00
234	TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING	20	\$300.00	\$1,350.00
287	PARKING WRONG DIRECTION	5	\$270.00	\$60.00
305	RESIDENT PARKING	39	\$160.00	\$780.00

Total Offenses:	<u>23</u>
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Total Tickets & Amount:	<u>157</u>	<u>\$4,835.00</u>	<u>\$6,205.00</u>
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01/08/2021

Offense Violation List Summary

From: 1/1/2020 To: 12/31/2020

MOVE
CITY OF ROCK FALLS

Report Options: Dispo=ALL; Offense=ALL; Order=ViolationAddress;

<i>Offense</i>	<i>Violation(s)</i>	<i>Ticket Due</i>	<i>Total Paid</i>
101 DOG RUNNING AT LARGE-1ST OFFENSE	10	\$650.00	\$200.00
103 DOG RUNNING AT LARGE-3RD OFFENSE	1	\$250.00	\$0.00
121 TRASH,JUNK,RATS,ODORS,UNLICENSED VEHICL/TOPPER	24	\$1,450.00	\$750.00
128 UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY A MINOR	2	\$50.00	\$50.00
129 UNLAWFUL BURNING	2	\$125.00	\$0.00
130 UNLAWFUL BURN BARREL	1	\$0.00	\$50.00
137 POSSESSION/CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY A MINOR	2	\$0.00	\$125.00
249 CRIMINAL TRESPASS TO REAL PROPERTY	4	\$350.00	\$75.00
253 DISORDERLY CONDUCT	9	\$900.00	\$150.00
259 POSSESSION OF CANNABIS UNDER 10 GRAMS	2	\$0.00	\$200.00
260 POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	3	\$200.00	\$100.00
262 RETAIL THEFT (UNDER \$150)	7	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
264 THEFT \$300 AND UNDER	1	\$250.00	\$0.00
276 SEMI PARKING RESTRICTIONS	2	\$125.00	\$50.00
277 RV PARKING RESTRICTIONS	2	\$200.00	\$0.00
280 DEPOSITING MATERIALS ON STREET	2	\$100.00	\$0.00
286 LITTERING	2	\$100.00	\$0.00
288 CURFEW	12	\$475.00	\$350.00
289 TRUANCY	4	\$300.00	\$75.00
294 HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS GRASS	1	\$150.00	\$0.00
296 SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION FEE/FAILURE TO PAY	10	\$800.00	\$200.00
300 FAILURE TO REMOVE INOPERABLE VEHICLE	10	\$475.00	\$100.00
301 METER DAMAGE/REPLACE	2	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
302 OPEN BURNING	5	\$50.00	\$250.00
308 ADULT USE CANNABIS VIOLATION	9	\$150.00	\$375.00
Grand Totals:	129	\$9,350.00	\$3,100.00

Mitzi Abell Award for Valor



Officer Ethan Riley was awarded the first ever Mitzi Abell Award for Valor. This award was created to honor long-time Rock Falls Police Sergeant Mitzi Abell who passed away in 2019. Ethan Riley responded to a report of a fire in an occupied apartment and assisted in rescuing a young child from the fire. The award was presented by Mayor Wescott, Chief Nelson and Mitzi's husband, Wayne, also a retired Rock Falls PD Sergeant. The young girl Officer Riley rescued was also present during the ceremony.

The Mitzi Abell Award for Valor will be awarded in the future to any Rock Falls police officer who, in the line of duty, goes "above and beyond" and performs an act which results in an outcome which would have not been likely without their extraordinary actions.

Records Organization

In early 2020, Amy Stoeckel was appointed to the position of Police Administrative Assistant. The position was originally created in 2019 to address newly enacted legislation requiring the expungement of juvenile police records. This process was expected to be lengthy and time consuming and would have been all but impossible to complete and maintain with the staffing at the time. The Police Administrative Assistant was also tasked with the maintaining of payments and collections for the MSI program, under which city ordinance violations are prosecuted and fines collected. Previously, these tasks were performed by the Administrative Commander. However, with new legislation placing new mandates on police departments, it was proving difficult for the existing staff to keep up.

By the end of 2020, all the juvenile records had been brought into compliance with the new law. More new legislation required the expungement of certain cannabis related arrests and allowed for individuals to more easily be able to petition the courts to have their criminal records expunged. Amy was able to bring the Department into compliance with the new laws and developed a system for ensuring ongoing compliance.

The next major project undertaken was to locate, inventory, condense and dispose of old police records which were no longer required to be kept or were duplicate. Records were scattered through out various files cabinets in the police department, as well as the impound building. Files from long-retired Detectives were stored in boxes, records no longer required to be kept were stored in bins and boxes stacked in various rooms. Amy painstakingly inventoried those files, converted those required to be kept to electronic files, and properly filed those which needed to be. All other files which were duplicates or no longer required to be stored were disposed of.

ADULT CASE FILES CATALOGUED – 2350

JUVENILE CASE FILES CATALOGED – 2415

CANNABIS EXPUNGEMENTS – 416

PURGED FILES – 2589

This process is on-going and will ultimately result in a far more organized records storage system, increased storage capacity for the future and an overall more efficient and professional records section.

Operation Santa Claus / Toys for Tots



Due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Department elected to forego the usual "Operation: Santa Claus" Christmas program and, in its place, conducted a collection drive for Toys for Tots of the Sauk Valley. Officers, staff and volunteers (with some assistance from Santa himself) braved the cold and snow to collect donations to be given to Toys for Tots for distribution. The event was an incredible success with a van load of toys with an estimated value of over \$4000 and more than \$2100 in cash collected and delivered to the Toys for Tots organization. It was impressive to see the generosity of the community even during the difficult and uncertain times we are all facing.

