Town of Rome Police Department

2020 Annual Report

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Town of Rome Police Department is to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors through effective crime reduction, preservation of the peace, and responsiveness to social changes in the community. We strive to focus on proactive policing and crime prevention.

Knowing law enforcement officers must maintain a high standard of conduct, the officers of the Town of Rome Police Department will strive to uphold the highest ethical ideals in both their professional and private lives. We will take an active role in establishing and maintaining a professional image of law enforcement in all our contacts with the public we serve through honesty and integrity.
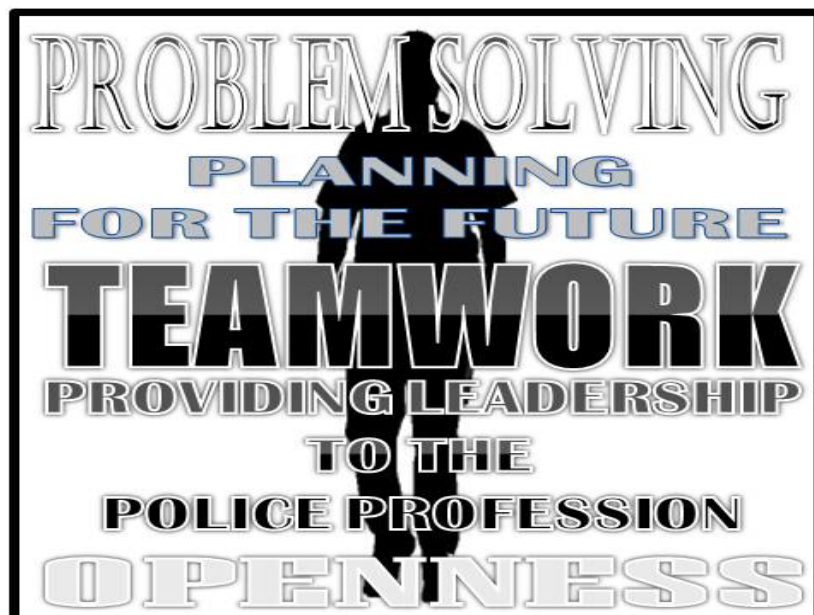
OUR COMMITMENTS

PROBLEM SOLVING
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
TEAMWORK
PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO THE POLICE PROFESSION
OPENNESS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Let me begin by thanking you for taking the time to review the accomplishments of the Rome Police Department in 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you information about the structure, skills, and specialized services offered by the Rome Police Department. Many assume a small-town law enforcement agency has little to offer the citizens of a community. As you page through this report please consider how you or a loved one may someday need the expertise and specialized training offered by the Rome Police Department. I am confident these professionals will be there in your time of need as we continue to strive to improve law enforcement services in the Town of Rome.

Since 1998 Town of Rome residents have been fortunate to live in a community which offers year-round local police protection. The Rome Police Department provides 24-hour police services 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This effort confirms that your local government continues to recognize the importance of providing public safety, while being fiscally responsible with tax dollars. All of us at the Rome Police Department are proud to be a vital part of this community's infrastructure and we look forward to serving you well into the future.

As always, I welcome any questions or concerns anyone may have about the Rome Police Department.
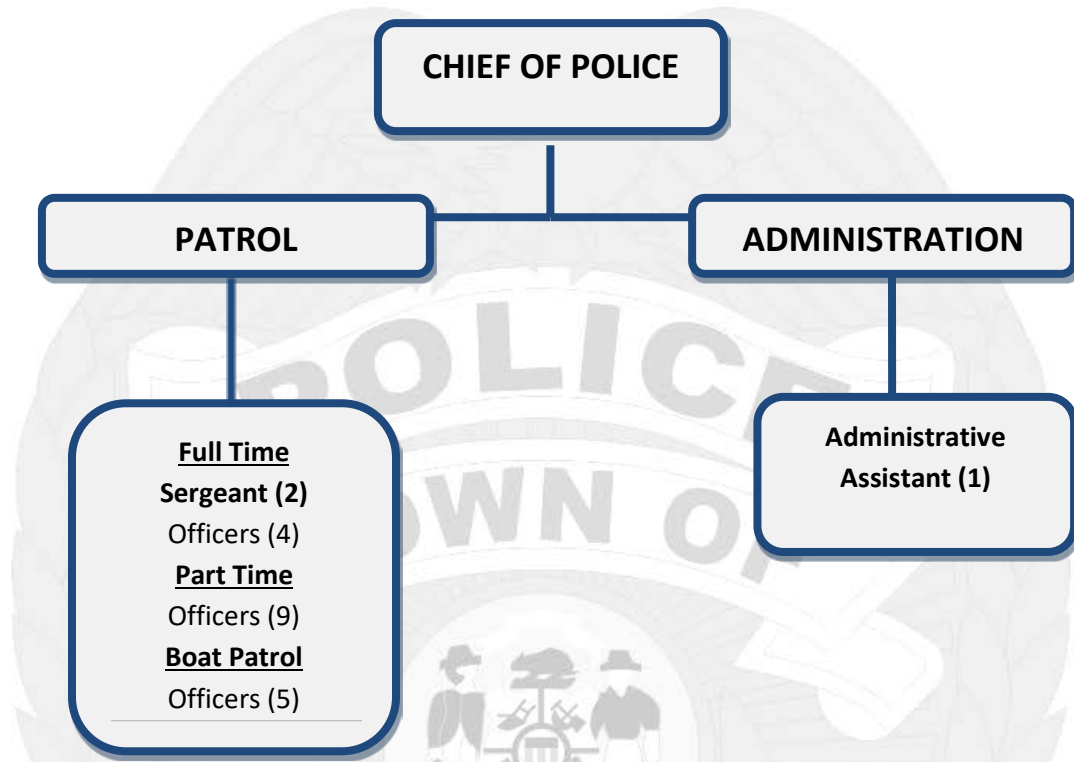
Respectfully,

Jason Lauby
Jason Lauby
Chief of Police

Chief Jason Lauby

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

```
                    ┌──────────────────────┐
                    │   CHIEF OF POLICE     │
                    └──────────┬───────────┘
              ┌────────────────┴────────────────┐
     ┌────────┴────────┐              ┌──────────┴──────────┐
     │     PATROL      │              │   ADMINISTRATION    │
     └────────┬────────┘              └──────────┬──────────┘
   ┌──────────┴──────────┐            ┌──────────┴──────────┐
   │    Full Time        │            │   Administrative    │
   │   Sergeant (2)      │            │    Assistant (1)    │
   │   Officers (4)      │            └─────────────────────┘
   │    Part Time        │
   │   Officers (9)      │
   │    Boat Patrol      │
   │   Officers (5)      │
   └─────────────────────┘
```

CHIEF OF POLICE
Jason Lauby

SERGEANTS
Brian Upton
Adam Anderson

PATROL OFFICERS
Mark Stashek
Jason Wilson
Cody Winker
Robert Jenks

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Donna Riemenschneider

PART TIME PATROL OFFICERS
Andrew Berg
Walker Kierstyn
Katrina Czys
Brian Machon
Chris Meyer
Sari Goodness
Richard Smith
Josh Paltz

Boat Patrol (Seasonal)
Jaycob Ohara
Shane Pongratz
Tatiana Chersini
Catherine Jasin
Nicholas Spanske

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Town of Rome is located in the northwestern corner of Adams County, Wisconsin. Rome is the largest town in Adams County in term of geographic size, population, and valuation. The Town has a total area of 62.3 square miles, of which 54.1 square miles is land and 8.2 square miles, or 13% is water. The Tri-Lakes, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Sherwood, and Camelot Lake, are impoundments on Fourteen Mile Creek, a tributary of the Wisconsin River, and are surrounded by census-designated places named after each lake. An impoundment of the Wisconsin River, Lake Petenwell is the second largest lake in the State and, covers the western border of the Town.

The estimated January 1, 2020, population for the Town of Rome was 2,816. This is an increase from the 2019 estimate of 2,800. Data concerning household size, per capita income, and home value is dated for the area. As of the 2017 estimates, there were 3,407 housing units in Rome. At least a quarter of these housing units are identified as seasonal in nature.

The median age increased from 58.2 in 2010 to an estimated 62 in 2017. The 2020 Census once complete, will allow for more up-to-date statistics on the area. As the population of the community grows older, it presents both challenges and opportunities for Rome. However, Rome is not unique as 10,000 people turn 65 years old every day. * According to the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's Livability Plan, *"The over-65 demographic makes up a significantly higher percentage of the total Region's population compared to the state, particularly in the southern and northern sub-regions. Generally, over the thirty-year period the counties with the highest levels of persons over 65 have had the highest growth rates, most notably Adams and Vilas Counties." ** This is a trend we are currently experiencing.

*Pew Research Center
**North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission is comprised of the ten-county area of Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood

The following section takes a look at those different facets.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division of the Police Department consists of the Chief of Police and administrative assistant. This division is responsible for the coordination and direction of the department.
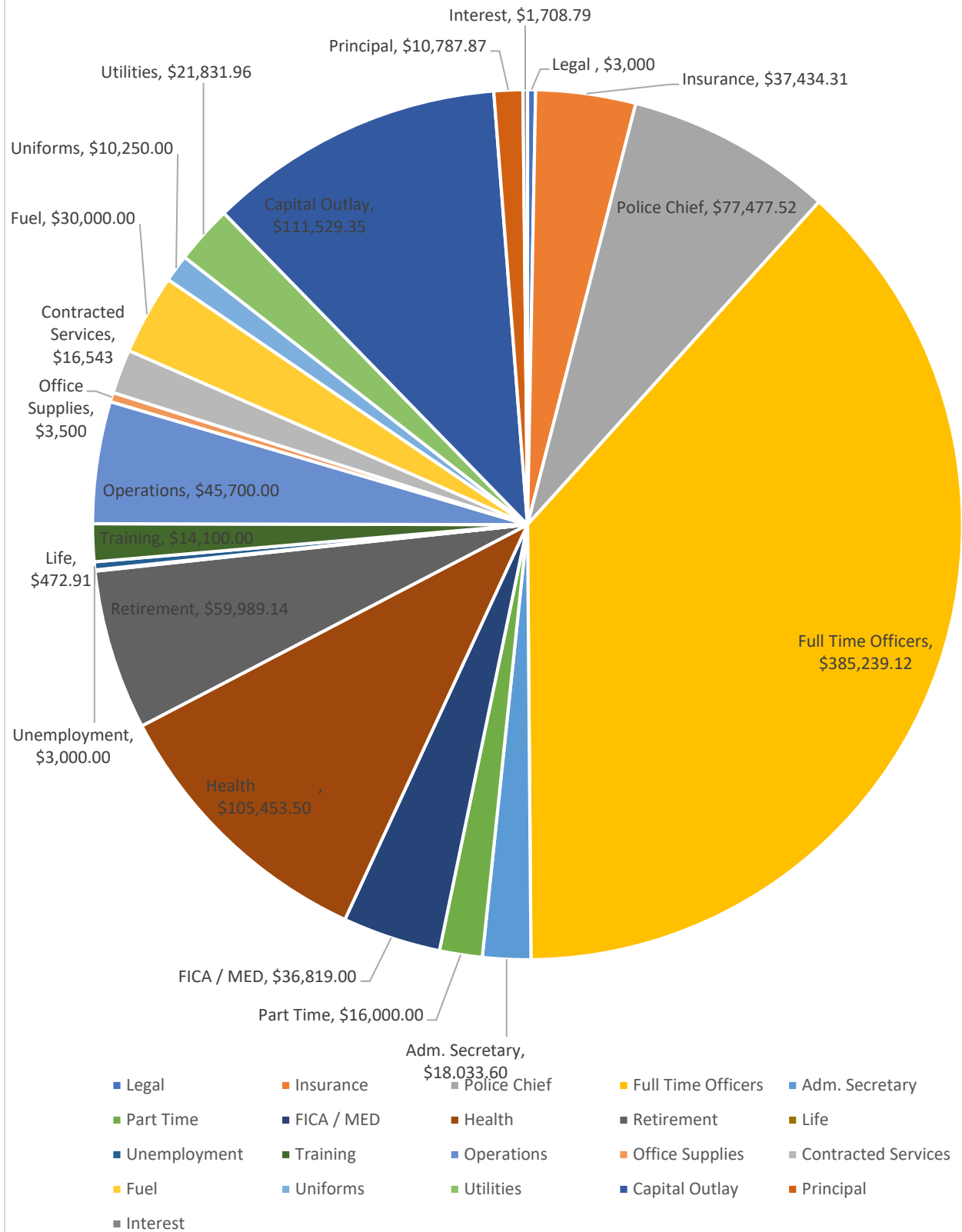
BUDGET

A large task of this division is budgeting and fiscal management. Through careful planning, the Rome Police Department has been able to maintain and, in some instances, increase the level of service all while maintaining a little to no impact on tax dollars.

Police Budget	2020 Budget	2020 Actual
Legal	$3,000	$224
Insurance	$37,434.31	$37,438.89
Police Chief	$77,477.52	$79,387.20
Full Time Officers	$385,239.12	$372,834.17
Adm. Secretary	$18,033.60	$14,636.02
Part Time	$16,000.00	$15,850.95
FICA / MED	$36,819.00	$36,849.94
Health	$105,453.50	$91,523.39
Retirement	$59,989.14	63,622.57
Life	$472.91	$540.60
Unemployment	$3,000.00	$0
Training	$14,100.00	$6,477.45
Operations	$45,700.00	$45,584.77
Office Supplies	$3,500	$3,113.13
Contracted Services	$16,543	$12,927.14
Fuel	$30,000.00	$15,174.21
Uniforms	$10,250.00	$5,526.38
Utilities	$21,831.96	$12,602.46
Capital Outlay	$111,529.35	$50,605.81
Principal	$10,787.87	$10,787.87
Interest	$1,708.79	$ 1,708.79
Total	**$1,008,874.65**	**$877,411.16**

Budget Revenue	2020 Budget	2020 Actual
Prior Yr. Revenue Cap Project	$39,529.35	$39,529.35
Water Patrol Grant	$7,500	$8,280.54
State Grants	0	$7,909.00
Police Fees	$450.00	$0
Police Property Sales	$500	0
Insurance Recoveries	$0	$7,238.02
Misc. Revenues	$3,000.00	$4,188.26
Property Tax	$957,895.30	$957,895.30
Total	**$1,008,874.65**	**$1,026,558.47**

2020 Budget

Interest, $1,708.79

Principal, $10,787.87

Legal, $3,000

Insurance, $37,434.31

Utilities, $21,831.96

Uniforms, $10,250.00

Fuel, $30,000.00

Capital Outlay, $111,529.35

Police Chief, $77,477.52

Contracted Services, $16,543

Office Supplies, $3,500

Operations, $45,700.00

Training, $14,100.00

Life, $472.91

Retirement, $59,989.14

Unemployment, $3,000.00

Health, $105,453.50

Full Time Officers, $385,239.12

FICA / MED, $36,819.00

Part Time, $16,000.00

Adm. Secretary, $18,033.60

Legend:
- Legal
- Insurance
- Police Chief
- Full Time Officers
- Adm. Secretary
- Part Time
- FICA / MED
- Health
- Retirement
- Life
- Unemployment
- Training
- Operations
- Office Supplies
- Contracted Services
- Fuel
- Uniforms
- Utilities
- Capital Outlay
- Principal
- Interest

PLANNING

We have been fortunate to maintain staffing levels from 2019 to 2020. The average number of officers per 1,000 people in Wisconsin in 2014 was 2.03. Here in the Town of Rome have operated at a high of

2.6 officers per 1,000 people prior to 2015, and since that time we have decreased to our current level of 2.2 officers per 1,000 people. This decrease can be attributed to both a rise in population along with the loss of one officer and budget constraints limiting the hiring of personnel. We will continue to monitor the growth in the Town and calls for service and plan ahead.
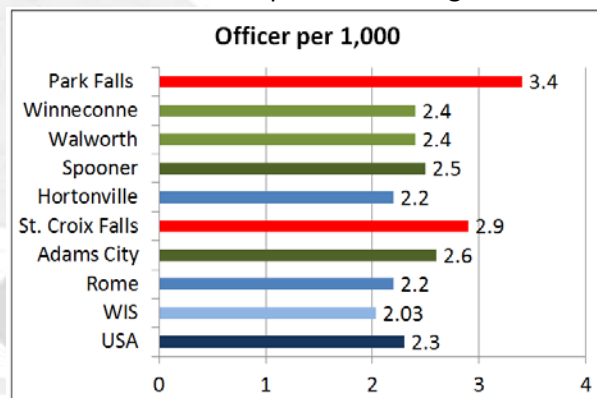
TRAINING

The State of Wisconsin requires that sworn officers attend a minimum of 24 hours of training annually to maintain their law enforcement certification.

This training included firearms qualification, along with annual legal updates on new laws and court rulings. In 2020, officers also attended a variety of specialized training most of which was virtual training due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Training included:
- Emergency Medical Responder Training certified through the State of Wisconsin
- State Firearms Training
- State required emergency vehicle operations training
- Crisis response training
- Implementation of Lexipol Policy and start of training on it

POLICE & EMS BUILDING

In May of 2019, the Town started construction of a new Police/EMS Building. The Rome Police Department moved into the completed building in late summer of 2019. The building includes Officer workstations, a clerical office, storage rooms, Chief office, shower room, break room, wellness area, evidence processing area, interview room, conference/interview room and heated garage space, all of which the old Police Department Building didn't have. The building has resolved safety issues that had been plaguing the department for over 20 years.

The building also is a Station for Nekoosa Ambulance Service and many of the amenities previously described are shared with the ambulance service for added efficiencies.

VEHICLE FLEET / MAINTENANCE

- Routine maintenance to the fleet was completed during the year.
- No new Patrol cars were received in 2019. A car was purchased in 2019 and not received until November of 2020 due to the pandemic.
- Fleet consists of three (3) 2017 Ford Explorers, 2013 Dodge Charger, 2014 Dodge Charger, 2015 Dodge Charger, 2017 Dodge Charger, and a 2020 Dodge Charger.

BOAT PATROL

In 2020, the Rome Police Department continued the boat patrol program to enforce boating regulations on the three lakes within the Town. Part-time seasonal officers patrolled the lakes throughout the summer. This year boat officers issued 45 citations during the 396 hours of patrol on the three lakes.

The Town had expenses of $ 10,028.90 for the 2020 Boat Patrol. The WDNR covered $ 4,639.31 of that cost through Water Safety Patrol Reimbursement. The final cost to the Town of the Patrol was $5,389.59.

PATROL

The patrol officers are the backbone of the Police Department. The officers are responsible for handling a majority of the many emergency and non-emergency calls received each year, along with enforcing traffic laws on the roadways throughout Rome.

The Town of Rome presently has three full-time patrol officers, two Patrol Sergeants and eight part-time patrol officers. These officers are then split among four patrol shifts, which provide coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At any given time one to two officers are working, depending on the time of day. The Sergeant is used as a floater and 1st to fill open shifts. Part-time officers are used to fill shifts and are an additional resource for major calls, events and traffic grants. Also, most of our part-time officers join the department with several years of experiences in law enforcement within the area. This eliminates the need to cover the training hours mandatory by the state, as their primary agency conducts that training. This alleviates the training cost for part-time officers on the Town.

Several of our officers live in or within close proximity of the town which makes for quick response times during critical incidents.

Officers primarily conduct patrols from police cars. The Police Department utilizes six marked patrol vehicles and one unmarked vehicle. This has traditionally been the primary means of providing police services, but we have also initiated alternative patrol methods such as an ATV and Boat.

INVESTIGATIONS

Criminal investigations are an important aspect of the services that we provide. Each Rome Police Officer has received training to conduct thorough and complete investigations. Officers routinely conduct investigations and frequently resolve the issue with no additional assistance. Each Town of Rome Officer is responsible for investigative follow-up and criminal case preparation related arrest and prosecution of persons suspected of committing crimes.

The Rome Police Department works closely with the Adams County District Attorney's Office, as well as many other agencies both locally and nationally. The officers meet regularly with other Adams County agencies to share and obtain information regarding criminal activity in and around the Town of Rome. The information shared at these meetings has proven invaluable and has directly resulted in crimes being solved not only here in the Town, but throughout the area.

WISCONSIN INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDERN TASK FORCE (ICAC)

The Rome Police Department was accepted into the Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). The program goal is to counter the emerging threat of offenders using the internet or other online technology to sexually exploit children. The Wisconsin ICAC Task Force is a national leader in fighting Internet crimes against children. The task force is comprised of Wisconsin Department of Justice personnel as well as police and sheriff's offices from around the state. The task force will help fund the training and equipment used in these types of investigations. It also provides resources to help with the investigations of internet crimes against children.

CRIME REPORTING

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which began in 1929, collects information on the following crimes reported to law enforcement: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Crime	2020
Violent Crime	
Murder	0
Negligent Manslaughter	1
Forcible Rape	2
Robbery	0
Assault (Battery)	7
Total Violent	**10**
Property Crime	
Burglary	11
Theft	15
Fraud	17
Vandalism	19
Total Property	**62**

Arrests	2020
Type	
Adult	**167**
Juvenile	**3**
TOTAL	**170**

Arrest data is taken from the Uniform Crime Reports and, for their purposes, a juvenile is identified as a person younger than eighteen. However, presently in Wisconsin, a seventeen-year-old is treated as an adult for criminal purposes. There are also different types of arrests that a law enforcement officer can make.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

In Rome, calls for service are received in a variety of ways. Emergency calls are typically placed through 911 calls which are answered and dispatched through the Adams County Sheriff's Office. In addition to these emergency calls, citizens can either report crimes in person at the Police Department or by calling the non-emergency number. Lastly, officers on patrol can self-initiate calls for service should they encounter something on their patrols.

CALLS FOR SERVICE				
2020	2019	2018	2017	AVG
1,660	1,479	1,390	1,225	1,362

Incident Type	2020	2019	2018	2017
Agency Assistance	24	25	24	25
Alarm	90	68	77	78
Animal	102	97	67	66
Civil	27	27	38	26
Damage to Property	20	13	12	48
Death	7	9	14	16
Disturbance	22	24	55	38
Domestic	13	21	24	13
Drug / Narcotic	14	8	11	6
Overdose	2	3	2	0
Disabled Vehicle	46	58	45	35
Public Service	24	19	42	37
Citizen Assist	54	50	36	28
Lost/Found Property	35	12	17	16
Missing Person	6	2	4	2
Noise	16	8	14	8
Fraud	18	27	11	10
Theft	32	34	36	40
Ordinance Violation	24	32	31	25
911 Hang-up	81	48	42	28
Suspicious Incident	153	116	112	86
Trespass	36	20	23	17
Warrant Arrests	6	23	31	25
Weapon	18	5	5	3
Welfare Check	69	61	42	28
Medical	222	194	184	151
Traffic Complaint	82	100	98	89
Traffic Hazard	25	31	29	31
Accidents Investigated	82	69	74	66

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Traffic safety and enforcement is one of the main complaints and concerns that we receive from community members. Officers routinely conduct proactive traffic enforcement during their shift as calls for service allow.

TRAFFIC CITATIONS	
	2020
Driver's License OWS, OAR, No Valid DL	52
Moving Traffic	26
Safety Belt	5
OWI	20
Total Citations	353

ACCIDENTS

State reportable crashes in Wisconsin are those crashes which are defined by one or more of the following criteria – property damage in excess of $1,000, or any sustained injury. All other crashes which do not meet these criteria are considered as a non-reportable crash.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Although a major function of the Police Department is responding to calls for service and investigating crimes that are committed, the Rome Police Department firmly believes in being actively involved in the community.

Community policing is a concept that saw its origins in England back in the early 1800's. Sir Robert Peel, known as the "Father of Modern Policing," is credited with establishing the modern concept of the police force. He realized that a partnership must exist for the success of the community and the police. Participation by all facets of the community is critical for real problem solving that leads to lasting solutions. A famous quote from Peel is "the police are the public and the public are the police".

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Due to COVID-19 officers were limited in our 2020 outreach. In years past, our officers participated in several opportunities of community outreach such as special events and presentations on a variety of topics including visits to area businesses and organizations. Topics of these presentations ranged from scams, active shooter response, emerging drug trends and robbery prevention. Some of the events officers participate in are: Public Safety Family Fest, Coffee with a Cop, Cops and Bobbers, and Kids Day.

PRESCRIPTION PILL AND DRUG DISPOSAL

Through a grant from the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, we installed a drug disposal box in the Police Department lobby in 2012. Since that time, there has been hundreds of pounds of unused medication collected! Rome has one or two drug take back events each year.

We are grateful for the assistance of Drug Free Adams County Task Force, Adams County Sheriff's Office and the Wisconsin Department of Justice for the assistance in properly disposing of these unused medications.

CREDITS

AUTHOR	STATISTICS	PHOTOS
Chief Jason Lauby	Wisconsin Department of Justice	Rome Police Department
Rome Police Department	Wisconsin Demographic Services Center	Visit Rome, WI
	Rome Police Department	Christina Martin Photography