Town of Rome Police Department
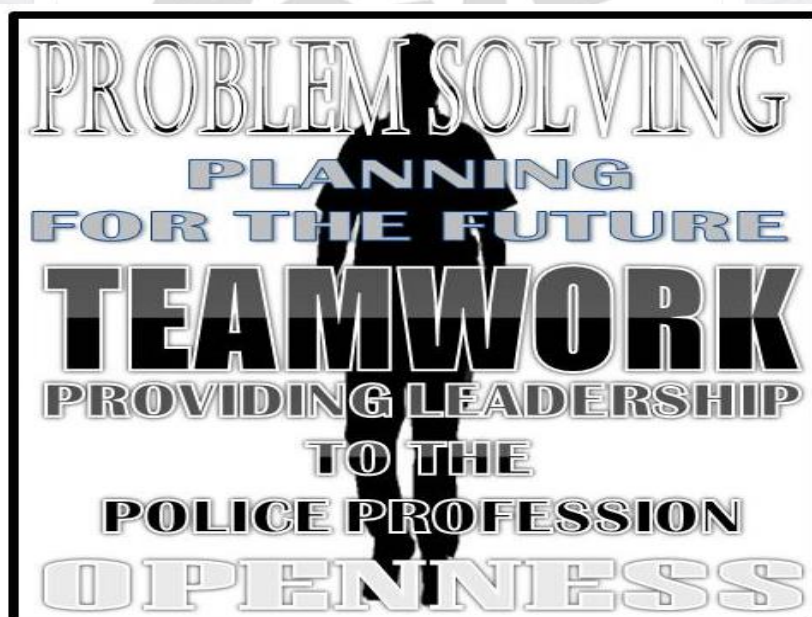
2016 Annual Report

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Town of Rome Police Department 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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Let me begin by thanking you for taking the time to review the accomplishments of the Rome Police Department in 2015.

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 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.

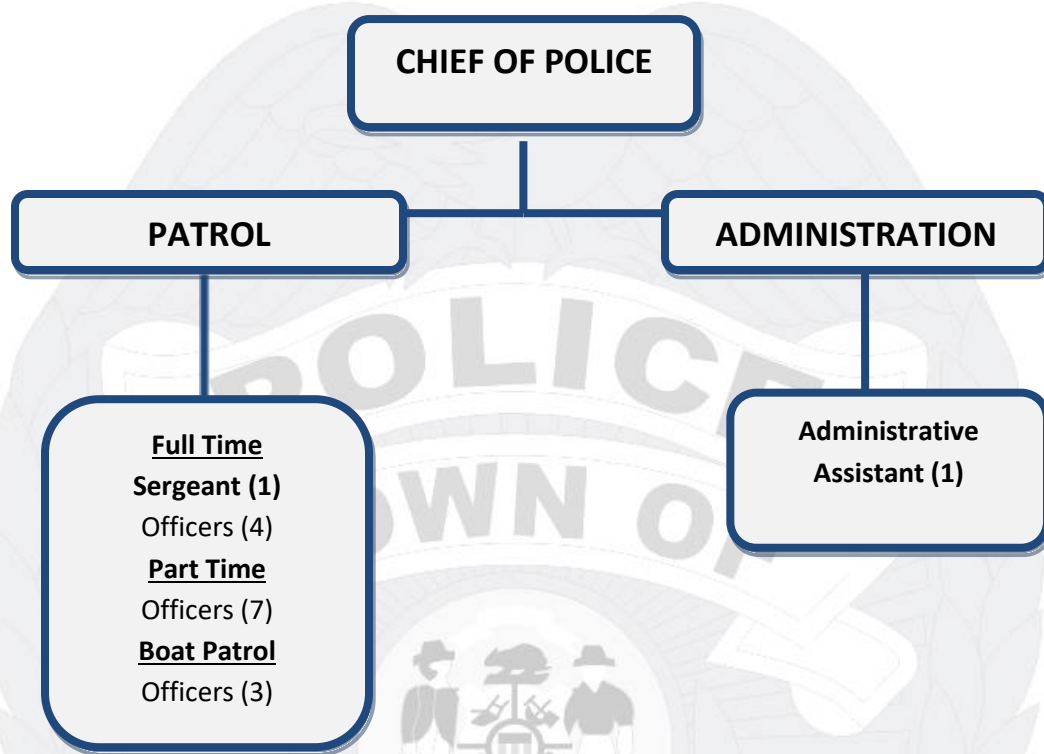As always, I welcome any questions or concerns anyone may have about the Rome Police Department.

Chief Jason Lauby

Respectfully,

Jason Lauby – Chief of Police

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

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                    │   CHIEF OF POLICE   │
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           ┌──────────────────┴──────────────────┐
    ┌──────────────┐                      ┌──────────────────┐
    │    PATROL    │                      │  ADMINISTRATION  │
    └──────────────┘                      └──────────────────┘
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  ┌──────────────────┐                   ┌──────────────────┐
  │    Full Time     │                   │  Administrative  │
  │   Sergeant (1)   │                   │  Assistant (1)   │
  │   Officers (4)   │                   └──────────────────┘
  │    Part Time     │
  │   Officers (7)   │
  │    Boat Patrol   │
  │   Officers (3)   │
  └──────────────────┘
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STAFF

CHIEF OF POLICE
Jason Lauby

SERGEANT
 Jason Wilson

PATROL OFFICERS
Mark Stashek
Dustin Kirsenlohr
Cody Winker
Brian Upton

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Donna Riemenschneider

Part- Time PATROL OFFICERS
Joe LeBreck
Todd Johnson
Jacob Paltz
Katrina Czys
Brian Machon
Derek Phillippi
Chris Meyer

Boat Patrol (Seasonal)
Libby Pratt
Michael Bettcher
Joseph Downs

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The town of Rome is located in the northwestern corner of Adams County Wisconsin. The census-designated places of Lake Arrowhead, Lake Camelot, and Lake Sherwood are located in the town. Petenwell Lake, an impoundment of the Wisconsin River, covers the western border of the town. 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 the lakes. The town has a total area of 62.3 square miles, of which 54.1 square miles land and 8.2 square miles, or 13.13%, is water.

As of the of the 2010 census, there were 2,720 people, 1,181 households, and 884 families residing in the town. The population density was 49.0 people per square mile. There were 2,354 housing units at an average density of 43.4 per square mile. The racial makeup of the town was 98.42% White, 0.26% Native American, 0.45% Asian, 0.04% from other races, and 0.83% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 0.26% of the population.
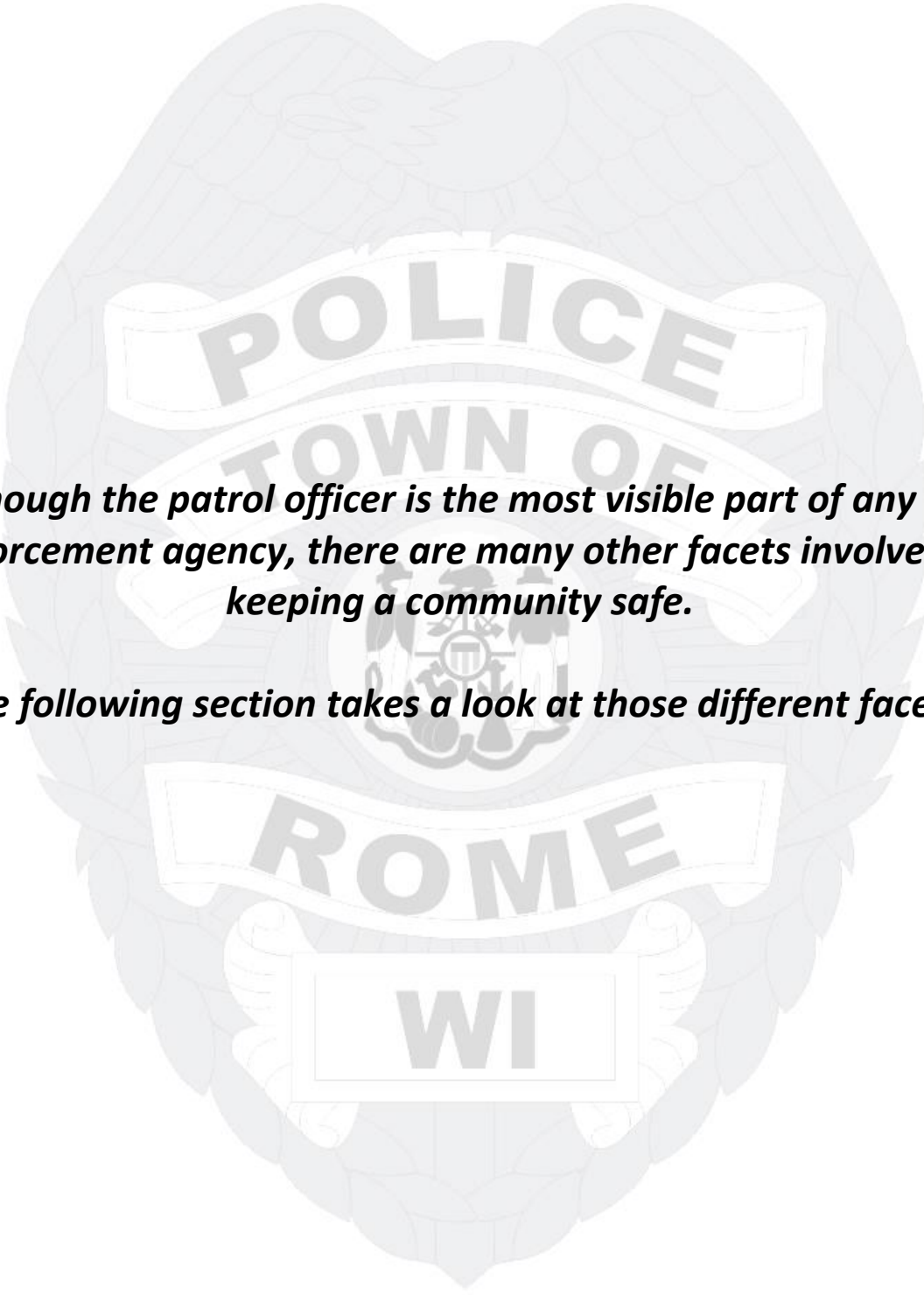
There were 1,181 households out of which 19.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 68.8% were married couples living together, 4.2% had a female householder with no husband present, and 25.1% were non-families. 20.9% of all households were made up of individuals and 8.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.25 and the average family size was 2.57.

In the town, the population was spread out with 17.2% under the age of 18, 3.9% from 18 to 24, 20.4% from 25 to 44, 34.3% from 45 to 64, and 24.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 51 years. For every 100 females there were 103.4 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 105.0 males.

 The median income for a household in the town was $44,000, and the median income for a family was $46,579. Males had a median income of $40,682 versus $22,083 for females. The per capita income for the town was $23,901. About 3.0% of families and 3.7% of the population were below the poverty line, including 2.4% of those under age 18 and 4.0% of those ages 65 or over.

AGENCY PROFILE

Although the patrol officer is the most visible part of any law enforcement agency, there are many other facets involved in keeping a community safe.

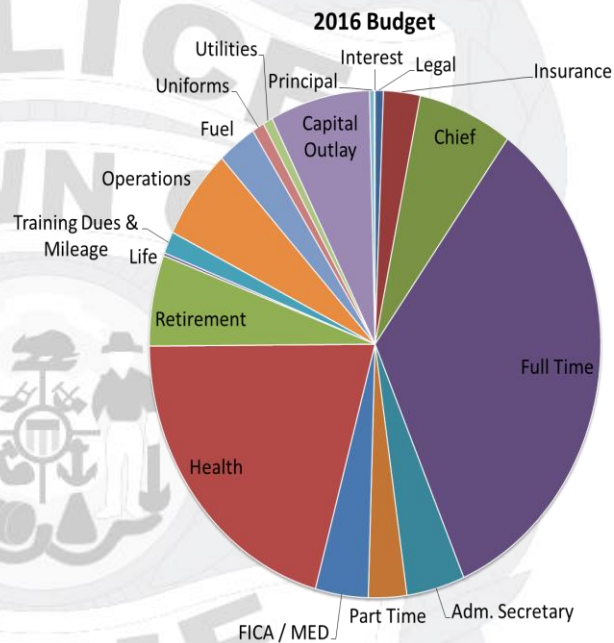*The following section takes a look at those different facets.*

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.
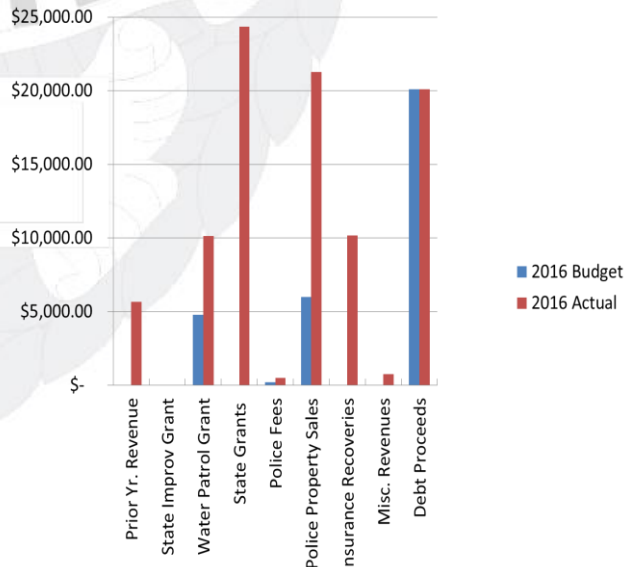
BUDGET
A large task of this division is budgeting and fiscal management. With the current state of economy and the need and demand for law enforcement services, this is no easy task. Through careful planning, the Rome Police Department has been able to maintain and in some instances increase the level of service all while maintaining a little to no impact on tax dollars. The budget established for the police department in 2016 was $1,003,557.63

Police Budget	2016 Budget	2016 Actual
Legal	$6,000.00	$364.00
Insurance	$26,300.00	$25,746.35
Chief	$67,983.00	$70,206.22
Full Time	$337,000.00	$322,627.65
Adm. Secretary	$41,829.00	$49,536.74
Part Time	$27,500.00	$30,281.33
FICA / MED	$37,950.00	$35,198.26
Health	$206,886.00	$65,978.79
Retirement	$58,166.00	$48,875.30
Life	$1,882.00	$750.93
Training	$14,100.00	$5,610.47
Operations	$58,567.93	$43,969.64
Fuel	$28,000.00	$17,251.76
Uniforms	$8,700.00	$4,990.75
Utilities	$7,000.00	$3,115.50
Capital Outlay	$71,750.00	$146,873.88
Principal	$3,400.00	$3,400.00
Interest	$543.70	$1,809.10
Total	**$1,003,557.63**	**$876,586.67**

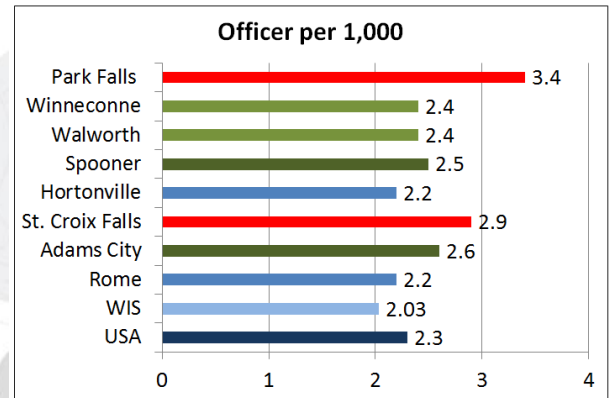| Budget Revenue	2016 Budget	2016 Actual
Prior Yr. Revenue	$0.00	$5,667.00
State Improv. Grant	$0.00	$0.00
Water Patrol Grant	$4,800.00	$10,122.81
State Grants	$0.00	$24,361.33
Police Fees	$200.00	$509.30
Police Property Sales	$6,000.00	$21,276.00
Insurance Recoveries	$0.00	$10,176.73
Misc. Revenues	$0.00	$740.00
Debt Proceeds	$20,100.00	$20,100.00
Property Tax	$972,457.63	$972,457.63
Total	**$1,003,557.63**	**$1,065,340.80**

PLANNING

We have been fortunate to maintain staffing levels from 2015 to 2016, which was one less than in past years. 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.

The department is also looking towards the future with its current space needs. Our police department and town municipal complex was constructed in 1988 and the growth of the town over the past almost 30 years is starting to have its effect on space throughout the building.

Officer per 1,000

Park Falls	3.4
Winneconne	2.4
Walworth	2.4
Spooner	2.5
Hortonville	2.2
St. Croix Falls	2.9
Adams City	2.6
Rome	2.2
WIS	2.03
USA	2.3

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. Officers also attended a variety of specialized training such as:

- Emergency Medical Responder Training certified through the State of Wisconsin.
- Fire Fighter 1 Class and are state certified.
- Officer Upton attended training to become the Department's firearms/rifle instructor which was split away from a general firearms instructor by the State.
- Sergeant Wilson & Officer Upton attended a Crisis Intervention Team Training held at Mid-State Technical College.
- Officer Upton attended instructor development which is required by the State to become certified to instruct officer training.
- Officers Stashek, Winker, Czys and Chief Lauby attended the Law Enforcement Symposium in Green Lake September 8th thru 11th.
- Sergeant Wilson is finishing a First Line Supervisors Course.
- Sergeant Wilson and Officer Kirsenlohr attended a traffic safety seminar in which the Rome Police Department was awarded a $1,000 which will be used on video recording equipment for the expedition replacement vehicle.

VEHICLE FLEET / MAINTENACE

- The department had two car deer crashes in January both caused front end damage. One was on the 2010 Charger and another on the 2012 Charger. The town was responsible for $500 on each vehicle for our insurance deductible.
- Routine maintenance to the fleet was completed on the fleet during the year. Warranty recall work was done for an airbag issue on the Dodge Chargers.
- 2009 Dodge Charger and a 2006 Ford Expedition were taken out of services. The 2009 Charger was sold at seal bid in 2016. The 2006 Expedition will be sold by seal bid in early 2017. These cars were replaced with a 2016 Ford Interceptor marked and a 2017 unmarked Ford Interceptor.
- A Panasonic Arbitrator Camera System was installed in the 2014 Dodge Charger. This camera system was funded by a State of Wisconsin speed enforcement grant All police vehicle now have a camera system installed.
- The Rome Police Department would like to thank the Wisconsin Rapids ABRA Auto Body and Glass for the generous donation of material and labor costs to repaint the driver's door on 2009 Dodge Charger.

Boat Patrol

In 2016 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 26 Citations during the 234 hours of patrol on the 3 lakes.

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. Our 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 funding 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.

	2016
Violent Crime	
Murder	0
Forcible Rape	0
Robbery	0
Assault (Battery)	2
Total Violent	**2**
Property Crime	
Burglary	5
Theft	48
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Total Property	**32**

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 4 full-time patrol officers, 1 Patrol Sargent and 7 Part-Time patrol officers. These officers are then split among 4 patrol shifts, which provide coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At any given time 1 to 2 working, depending on the time of day. The Sargent is used as a floater and 1st to fill open shifts. Part-Time Offices are used to fill shifts and are an additional resource for major calls, events and traffic grants. Also most of our part-time officer join the department with several years of experiences in law enforcement with in the area. This illuminates the need to cover the training hours mandatory by the state, as their primary agency conducts that training. This alleviates the cost for these officers on the town. Several of them live in or within close proximity of the town which makes for quick response times during critical incidents.

Officers primarily conduct their 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 ATV and Boat.

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				
2016	2015	2014	2013	AVG
1,212	1,233	1,216	1,139	1,200

Incident Type	2016	2015	2014	2013	AVG
Agency Assistance	14	22	9	12	14.25
Alarm	69	60	64	84	69.25
Animal	69	66	64	48	61.75
Civil	26	30	11	19	21.5
Damage to Property	14	12	17	13	14
Death	17	21	11	12	15.25
Disturbance	21	26	15	14	19
Domestic	16	13	10	13	13
Drug / Narcotic	7	5	6	3	5.25
Overdose	3	0	1	1	1.25
Disabled Vehicle	54	60	53	47	53.5
Public Service	26	32	20	19	24.25
Citizen Assist	36	34	37	44	37.75
Lost/Found Property	19	16	17	17	17.25
Missing Person	2	1	6	5	3.5
Noise	6	10	8	9	8.25
Fraud	13	21	13	17	16
Theft	32	52	45	45	43.5
Ordinance Violation	23	22	69	44	38.25
911 Hang-up	26	33	7	5	17.75
Suspicious Incident	90	71	77	65	75.75
Trespass	28	24	13	19	38.75
Warrant Arrests	11	13	19	19	15.5
Weapon	9	7	6	6	7
Welfare Check	37	40	45	34	39

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			
	2016	2015	2014
Operating After Revocation	12	4	7
Operating While Suspended	18	11	15
Operating W/O Valid DL	6	1	5
OWI	14	17	26
Total Citations	761	555	505

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.

TRAFFIC CALLS			
	2016	2015	2014
Traffic Complaint	73	80	99
Traffic Control / Escort	2	5	3
Traffic Hazard	44	43	58
Accidents Investigated	79	66	80

ARRESTS need to update

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.

Type	2016	2015	2014
State Charges	177	168	210
Juvenile Referrals	41	51	66
Village Summons	263	270	339
TOTAL	481	489	615

- **Prosecution requests** are requests to the district attorney's office for state charges, which can result in a punishment of incarceration in jail or prison, probation and/or monetary fines.
- **Juvenile referrals** are requests to the juvenile authorities for charges which can result in a punishment of incarceration in a secure detention facility and/or juvenile supervision through a case worker.
- **Village summonses** are local ordinance violations which can result in a punishment of community service or monetary fines.

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS

- We filled one full-time vacancy with Officer Brian Upton. Brian previously served 3 years with the Adams County Sheriff's Office.

- Officer Stashek met with Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank for a security meeting.

- The Department received a $ 1000.00 donation from Barb Herreid and a Thank You letter.

- Officers attended the Adams County Crisis Response Team (CCRT) meeting.

- Participated in the Prescription Drug take back event.

- Officers attended the Adams County Traffic Safety meetings.

- The police department several felony arrests were made solving several burglary, and theft cases that took place in the summer of 2015.

- Several individuals were also arrested and/or referred to the District Attorney's Office after a drug investigation.

- The town would like to thank the Adams County Sheriff's Office, Rome Fire Department, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for all of the time they dedicated in a recent search and recovery effort on Lake Camelot.

- Continued to work with area businesses, schools and churches conducting security surveys and working with them to detect, deter, react and recover from an active threat incident.

- Continued to engage the community through our presence on social media as well as traditional media.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Although a major function of the police department is responding to calls for service and investigating crimes that are committed, 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

Last year our officers participated 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 officer participated in are; Public Safety Family Fest, Coffee with a Cop, and Kids Day.

In response to several active threat incidents in the United States and here in Wisconsin we have been working proactively with area business and churches to assist them with crisis planning and offering suggestions to improve the security at their buildings. This has become a collaborative project with the Adams County Sheriff's Office and their community policing deputy, working as a team when conducting these free security and risk assessments. Security and risk assessments are done by Part- time Rome Officer Joe LeBreck. Joe is also the Community Policing Deputy for the Adams County Sheriff's Office. Joe is an active member and serves on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association. He has advanced training from the National Crime Prevention Council.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH / NEXTDOOR

Neighborhood Watch is a program designed to assist neighborhood members in working together and in partnership with the police department to reduce crime through the reporting of suspicious activity to police as well as sharing that information with their neighbors. The purpose of Neighborhood Watch is to have as many neighbors watching after each other's property as if it were their own. Neighbors are asked to be the extra 'eyes and ears' for the police, as they know what are normal for their neighborhood and what isn't and who belongs and who doesn't.

Neighborhood Watch has shown to be the most successful anti-crime tool and the least expensive program in the country to help create safe, pleasant and livable communities.

Seeing the need to expand on this platform once again the town teamed up with the county and started utilizing the program Nextdoor.
Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free! Thousands of neighborhoods are already using Nextdoor to build happier safer places to call home.
Built from the Ground Up for Neighborhoods
Private — Real names and address verification; no public access
Local — Neighborhood boundaries; Community Conversations
Useful — Recommendations, Classifieds, events, crime/safety and more

Public Safety Family Fest

In August we participated at the Public Safety Fest event hosted by the sheriff's office. This event has been ongoing for the past 2 years and continues to grow each year!

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, we have collected hundreds or thousands of pounds of unused medication!

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.

HOW SAFE ARE WE?

CRIME TRIANGLE

Crime trend research indicates absence creates opportunity and can lead to a higher rate of victimization. In 1979 in the American Sociological Review, Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felton wrote, "Most criminal acts require a convergence in space and time of likely offenders, suitable targets and the absence of capable guardians against crime." Their research laid the foundation for the development of the Crime Triangle.

The Crime Triangle theorizes that in order for a crime to occur, three elements must be present: *an offender with the ability to commit the crime; a desired victim or target; and the opportunity to commit the crime.* Based on this theory, crime can be reduced by removing any one of the three elements. Most crime reduction strategies utilize a combination of approaches to achieve this goal. The easiest way is to reduce the opportunity. Often something as simple as locking our car door or garage door can deter the potential criminal.

HOW DO WE COMPARE

There are two areas that can be studied to compare a community to another in terms of frequency and likelihood of crime. Mathematical formulas are used to break down the numbers and put communities on a level playing field (typically per 1,000 residents) which allow us to compare different sized areas such as Rome and Ft. Lauderdale.

Note that these are 2015 numbers as the Wisconsin Department of Justice has not completed their 2016 statistics at the time of publication.

CRIME RATES			
Community	**Population**	**Violent** *Rate per 1,000*	**Property** *Rate per 1,000*
Wisconsin	5,732,981	3.06	19.74
Hortonville	2,717	. 073	. 956
Adams City	1,883	2.65	47.26
Walworth	2,834	. 035	2.5
Winneconne	2,456	. 041	. 366
Spooner	2,598	. 193	2.1
Rome	**2,720**	**. 073**	**1.17**
St. Croix Falls	2,064	0	5.0
Park Falls	2,337	. 042	1.11