



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WEST FARGO  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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# CHIEF'S INTRODUCTION

## COMMISSION PRESIDENT DARDIS,

I am proud to present the West Fargo Police Department's 2025 Annual Report. The City of West Fargo continues to thrive with ongoing residential and commercial development. Despite this growth, our department saw only a 1.5% increase in the overall crime rate for the year. Our commitment to public safety is evident in the 32,911 calls for service officers responded to this past year, reflecting the community's ongoing need for law enforcement services.

Our department prides itself on fostering strong relationships with the community through innovative partnerships and proactive policing programs. Our evolving Community Outreach Programs and Services (COPS) Unit plays a crucial role in these efforts, showing our commitment to community engagement.

In 2025, the department consisted of 83 dedicated officers, 15 civilian staff members and four part-time Community Service Officers. This team of committed leaders shares a unified goal: to protect and serve our community with honor, integrity and courage.

As we look ahead to 2026, the West Fargo Police Department will continue serving our community with pride and professionalism. This annual report highlights the hard work and achievements we have accomplished in collaboration with our community over the past year.

Our entire department remains committed to ensuring that West Fargo continues to be the best and safest place to call home.

## PETE NIELSEN, CHIEF OF POLICE



# CORE VALUES



## INTEGRITY

Upholding the greatest moral principles and behavior standards while treating everyone we serve fairly and equally.



## SERVICE

The desire to contribute to the welfare of others by responding appropriately to the needs and demands of the community.



## COURAGE

Maintain the strength of mind, body, and spirit to encounter and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty with fairness and surety of purpose.

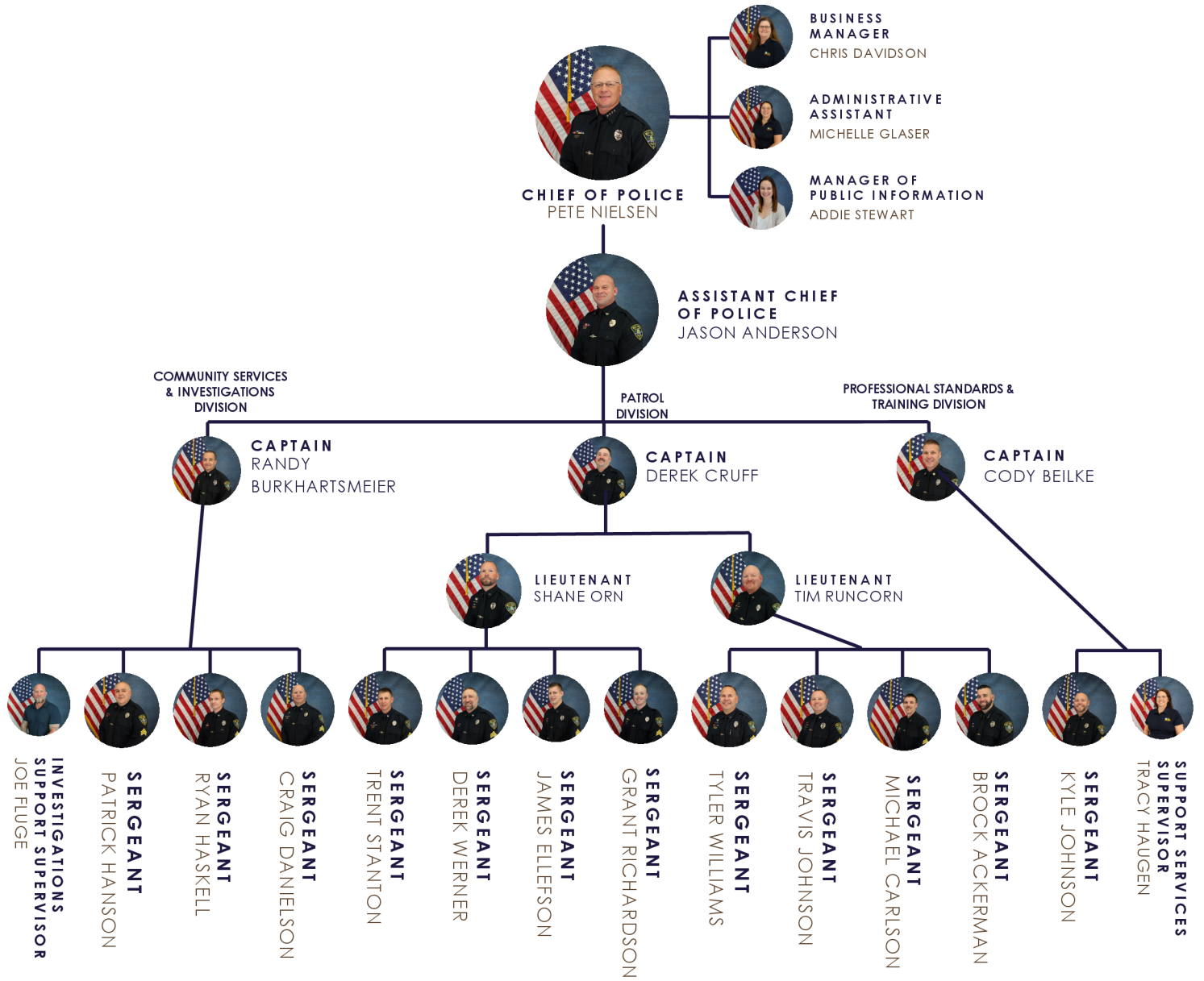
## MISSION

The West Fargo Police Department has the responsibility to protect life and safeguard property in a highly effective and efficient manner and to engage the community in a collaborative crime prevention program.

## VISION

The West Fargo Police Department strives to be a highly trusted public service agency that all levels of the criminal justice system may use as a standard of law enforcement performance as a result of having developed and maintained a strong core of visionary leaders and exceptionally trained and motivated personnel.

# ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



# NEW HIRES



Officer  
J. Henry



Officer  
J. Wanzek



Officer  
C. Wirtzfeld



Officer  
B. Kemmer



Officer  
J. Posterick

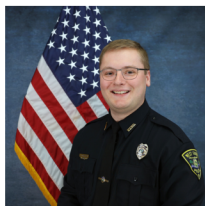
## DEPARTMENT TOTALS

**83**  
OFFICERS

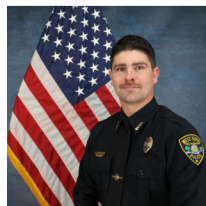
**15**  
CIVILIAN  
STAFF

## COMPLETED

# PROBATIONARY PERIOD



Officer  
A. VonEschen



Officer  
G. Dixon



Officer  
B. Tulus



Officer  
W. Koropatnicki



Officer  
A. Nystel



Officer  
J. Mickelson



Officer  
L. Schany



Officer  
E. Newman



Officer  
C. Hill



Officer  
A. Diop

# AWARD

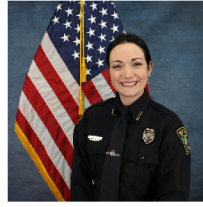
# RECIPIENTS



Shane Orn,  
Lieutenant  
Promotion



Tim Runcorn,  
Lieutenant  
Promotion



Annie Feltman,  
Officer of  
the Year



Patrick Hanson,  
Supervisor of  
the Year



Bethany Evans,  
Employee of  
the Year



Tyler Crouse,  
Employee of  
the Quarter



Lee Mewes,  
Employee of  
the Quarter



Sylvie Schweyen,  
Employee of the  
Quarter



John Mickelson,  
Employee of the  
Quarter



Lee Mewes,  
Luther Family  
Ford Honoree



John Mickelson,  
Luther Family  
Ford Honoree

# SERVICE

# MILESTONES



Tracy Haugen,  
30 Years  
of Service



Chris Davidson,  
30 Years  
of Service



Todd Pearson,  
25 Years  
of Service



Mark Morris,  
25 Years  
of Service



Jason Balvik,  
20 Years  
of Service



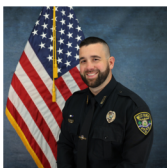
Dora Roll,  
15 Years  
of Service



Sylvie Schweyen,  
15 Years  
of Service



Mackenzie Carr,  
10 Years  
of Service



Brock Ackerman,  
10 Years  
of Service



Sabrina Symonds,  
10 Years  
of Service



Grant Richardson,  
10 Years  
of Service



Matt Oldham,  
10 Years  
of Service



Aaron Ostlund,  
10 Years  
of Service



Addie Stewart,  
5 Years  
of Service



Bobbi Jo Nobles,  
5 Years  
of Service

## DEPARTMENT

# VOLUNTEERS AND CADETS

## VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers assist with tasks ranging from vehicle maintenance to transporting paperwork to the Cass County State's Attorney's Office.

The department is fortunate to have nationally recognized Chaplains serving the team. The Police Chaplains assist the residents of West Fargo and West Fargo Police Department Officers during traumatic events.

The department also has numerous volunteers who assist with the Cadets program by arranging meetings, taking photos and more.



## PUBLIC SAFETY CADETS

The West Fargo Police Public Safety Cadets is a career exploration program for high school and early college students. The program's primary goal is to help young adults decide if a career in law enforcement is of interest and to challenge Cadets to be responsible citizens in the community and the nation.

The department often sees Cadets who have excelled in the program progress to become Community Service Officers and sometimes sworn Officers with the West Fargo Police Department.



# CRIME STATISTICS

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
HOMICIDE		1	-	1	2	1
KIDNAPPING		6	8	3	1	3
HUMAN TRAFFICKING		-	-	-	-	-
SEX CRIMES		42	31	51	46	46
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT		49	55	54	39	46
SIMPLE ASSAULT/INTIMIDATION		319	291	290	242	266
STALKING		4	1	12	16	22
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>421</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>384</b>
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS		263	199	251	293	266
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS		224	169	234	266	281
PORN/OBSCENE MATERIAL		17	11	14	7	14
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS		25	24	19	30	19
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY		7	4	6	-	2
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>536</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>582</b>
GROUP B CRIMES		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
DUI		119	120	103	138	159
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS		57	48	48	55	73
OTHER GROUP B CRIMES		522	531	549	517	479
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>698</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>711</b>
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ROBBERY/BURGLARY/BUILDING THEFT		166	106	145	117	99
SHOPLIFTING		88	68	87	87	71
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE		125	81	104	73	46
IDENTITY THEFT		59	38	39	72	35
COUNTERFEITING/FRAUD		45	41	23	27	89
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY		539	510	523	375	423
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1,022</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>763</b>
<b>CRIME TOTAL</b>		<b>2,677</b>	<b>2,336</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>2,440</b>
OTHER WARRANTS		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
WARRANT OTHER AGENCY		285	425	454	441	398
LOCAL WARRANT		37	66	44	59	96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>221</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>494</b>

2025

# BUDGET

TOTAL BUDGET: \$14,591,639

BUDGET BREAKDOWN		2025
●	Training	\$170,400
●	Prisoner Board	\$120,000
●	Gas & Oil	\$203,900
●	Rifles & Equipment	\$479,100
●	Technology	\$360,200
●	Police Cruisers & Equipment	\$454,000
●	Other Accounts	\$675,850
●	WSI	\$95,148
●	Salaries & Benefits	\$12,033,041

## NOTABLE PURCHASE: POLARIS ATV

The City of West Fargo has been growing rapidly over the past five years, increasing demands on the department.

Why an ATV?

- Enhanced Mobility: ATVs can easily navigate crowded events
- Efficient Response: An ATV can transport up to six officers, ensuring quick and safe responses without needing a full squad car
- Versatile Access: ATVs reach places standard vehicles can't, improving patrol coverage and efficiency in areas like Cruise Night and diversion terrains.

\*This ATV was purchased for approximately \$55,000 using asset forfeiture funds.



# BOMB & SWAT TEAMS

## RED RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BOMB SQUAD

The Red River Regional Bomb Squad is a multi-jurisdictional team that assists local law enforcement agencies in the education, location and disposal of all energetic materials. The Bomb Squad is often utilized with the tactical unit and negotiations unit on large-scale events with potential for dangerous materials or explosives. The Bomb Squad uses different types of technology to assist other units including bomb robots, which are capable of sending real-time video and audio.

In 2025, the Bomb Squad was called out 42 times.

The West Fargo Police Department has three officers serving on the Red River Regional Bomb Squad.



## RED RIVER VALLEY SWAT TEAM

The Red River Valley SWAT Team is comprised of members from all local metropolitan agencies. The department has five officers on the team, including a team leader.

In 2025, the Red River Valley SWAT Team was deployed 31 times for various high-risk search warrants, barricaded subject calls, and other high-profile security details. The 31 deployments included fugitive apprehension, security details, search warrants and barricaded subjects.

The team trains monthly for high-risk operations such as warrants, hostage rescue, barricaded subjects and active shooter incidents.



# NEGOTIATIONS UNIT

Collaborating with the Tactical Unit, the Negotiations Unit works to ensure the safe resolution of high-risk and critical incidents. Made up of 12 team members from various metro law enforcement agencies, the Red River Valley SWAT Negotiations Unit undergoes monthly team training focused on active listening, communication skills, and communication technology. The West Fargo Police Department has two officers serving on the Negotiations Unit.

In addition to regular team training, the negotiators actively participate in regional and national events to stay updated on best practices and maintain proficiency with the latest communication technology.

Throughout the year, the Negotiations Unit is deployed to assist with any Red River Regional SWAT team tactical call for service to provide support during high-risk and critical incidents. In 2025, the Negotiations Unit was called out 24 times.

The Negotiations Unit also participates in various community engagement events in the metro area and conducts presentations for community members, shedding light on the roles and responsibilities of the Unit.

The dedicated efforts of the Negotiations Unit underscore their commitment to public safety and effective crisis resolution.



# PATROL DIVISION

**32,911**  
CALLS FOR  
SERVICE

**TOTAL MILES DRIVEN: 726,416**

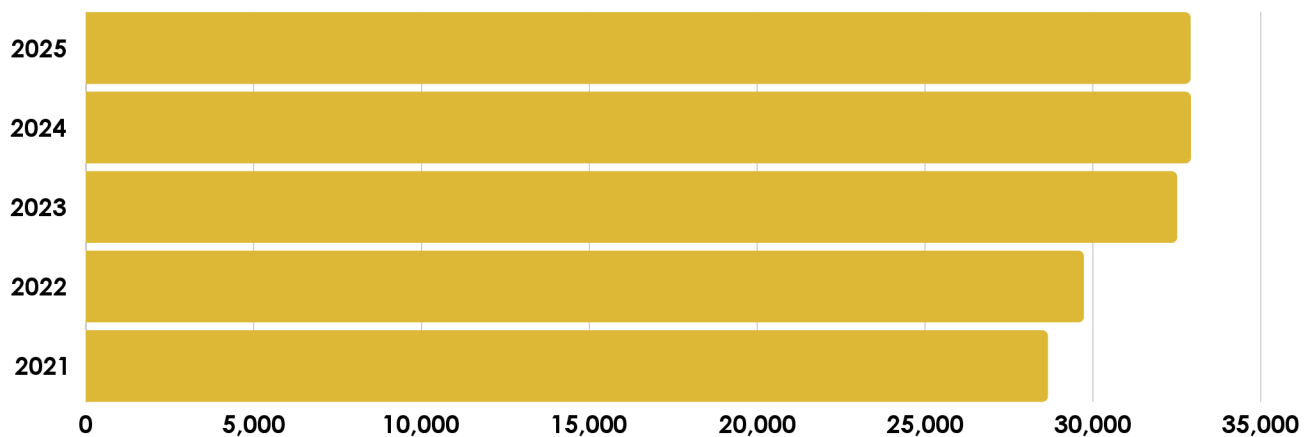
The Patrol Division is composed of a Patrol Captain, two Lieutenants, eight Patrol Sergeants, 40 Patrol Officers, a Traffic Enforcement Officer, and multiple part-time Community Service Officers.

Officers in the Patrol Division respond to both major and minor crimes and assist on medical calls, handling everything from providing directions to managing serious incidents involving injury or death.

Beyond basic duties, officers serve in various specialized roles, including alcohol compliance checks, Bike Patrol, Bomb Squad, defense tactics, Drug Recognition Experts, Peer Support, the Community Service Officer Program, Police Cadet mentors, Field Training Officers, Honor Guard, internet safety, Negotiations Unit, SWAT, and the K-9 Unit.

TRAFFIC STATS	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
DUI	119	118	103	138	159
DUI REFUSALS	35	30	35	34	45
DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION	265	492	625	539	532
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>736</b>
PATROL STATS	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CITATIONS ISSUED	4,583	5,503	4,533	4,029	5,318
ARRESTS	1,371	1,569	1,578	1,601	1,731
ACCIDENTS	907	1,030	971	919	915
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6,861</b>	<b>8,102</b>	<b>7,082</b>	<b>6,549</b>	<b>7,964</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,280</b>	<b>8,742</b>	<b>7,845</b>	<b>7,260</b>	<b>8,700</b>

## TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE



# PATROL DIVISION

PUBLIC ASSIST, NON-CRIMINAL	2021	2022	2024	2024	2025
MISSING PERSONS/RUNAWAY	111	147	115	78	196
SUICIDE (ATTEMPTED, COMPLETED)	49	47	42	25	26
SUICIDE THREAT	66	80	69	65	58
UNATTENDED DEATH	37	34	38	36	58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>338</b>

OVERDOSE STATS	2025
FATAL OVERDOSES	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

GUN CRIMES	2025
CASES WITH A FIREARM	23
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, HOMICIDE CRIME CODES	49
GUN SHOTS	3
MURDER AND NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>



TOP CSO CALLS FOR SERVICE	2023	2024	2025
PARKING COMPLAINTS	1,350	2,191	1,560
ANIMAL CALLS	351	327	356
CODE ENFORCEMENT	320	316	242
VEHICLE UNLOCKS	116	107	83
FOUND PROPERTY	53	64	53
FOUND BICYCLES	23	22	21
IMPOUNDS	23	21	12
PUBLIC ASSISTS	13	9	14
COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING	6	10	7

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

The Community Service Officer (CSO) program offers several part-time positions. It provides criminal justice students with foundational law enforcement experience, aiming to recruit and retain quality candidates for the West Fargo Police Department.

The CSOs respond to calls for service, such as vehicle unlocks, animal calls, code enforcement, and parking complaints. The CSOs also work directly with the Fleet Manager for vehicle maintenance and deliveries to other government agencies.

**TOTAL CSO CALLS FOR SERVICE: 2,380**

# DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

## LAKE REGION STATE COLLEGE

The West Fargo Police Department, in partnership with Lake Region State College, hosted the fourth annual Peace Officer Academy. This program trains individuals to become licensed peace officers in North Dakota, with nearly all graduates finding employment in the state.

The 14-week program includes daily physical fitness and classroom sessions covering topics like crime scene processing and North Dakota criminal law. Lake Region State College is the only institution in the state authorized to provide the North Dakota POST basic curriculum. The department aims to recruit and retain qualified individuals for local and regional positions. Special thanks to officers from the West Fargo Police Department and Cass County Sheriff's Office for their instructional support.



## K-9 UNIT



### K-9 JAZZ

Handler: Sgt. B. Ackerman  
Breed: Belgian Malinois



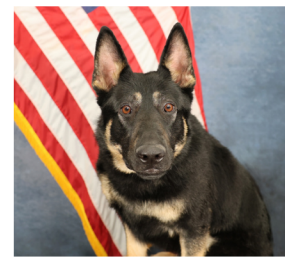
### K-9 THOR

Handler: Officer M. Oldham  
Breed: German Shepherd



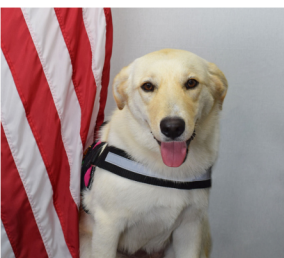
### K-9 VITO

Handler: Officer B. Nobles  
Breed: Belgian Malinois



### K-9 Q

Handler: Officer W. Koropatnicki  
Breed: German Shepherd



### K-9 BELLA

Handler: SRO T. Pearson  
Breed: Labrador Mix



### K-9 LABBY

Handler: SRO D. Roll  
Breed: Goldendoodle



### K-9 CLOVER

Handler: SRO S. Skwieria  
Breed: Chocolate Lab

**253**  
WORKING K-9  
DEPLOYMENTS

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

**977**  
FINGERPRINTS  
RECORDED

The Professional Standards Division includes a Captain, Training Sergeant, Training Officer and a number of civilian employees who perform essential tasks for the department.

## OFFICE SUPERVISOR

The Office Supervisor is responsible for approving task guidelines, schedules, staff reviews and the supervision and training of Support Specialists. The Office Supervisor serves as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) validation officer who is responsible for verifying the accuracy of police records in NCIC.

## SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

The Support Specialists conduct criminal background checks, route reports to agencies, and handle open records requests, ensuring compliance with North Dakota Open Records Law. They transcribe digital reports and interviews, and manage correspondence, proofreading, editing, filing, and data entry.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS	EXONERATED	SUSTAINED	UNFOUNDED	TOTAL
EXTERNAL	0	5	0	5
INTERNAL	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>



# TRAINING & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## TRAINING

Sworn staff received 6,652 hours of continuing education and Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) accredited training.

Every three years, officers are required to complete 60 hours of continuing education training to maintain their license. A variety of training organizations were brought to the West Fargo Police Department to cover topics such as drug interdiction, police K-9, legislative review, SRO basics, FTO training and interview techniques.

**TOTAL TRAINING HOURS: 6,652**



## CRIME FREE MULTI-HOUSING

The West Fargo Crime Free Multi-Housing Program offers training for West Fargo rental property management and staff. After training, the Crime Free Multi-Housing coordinator notifies the trained management when tenants or visitors commit certain offenses on the property. The department also assists the rental property management with background checks.

**RENTAL PROPERTY CALLS FOR SERVICE: 4,059**

## SEX OFFENDER COMPLIANCE TEAM

The West Fargo Police Department Sex Offender Compliance Team was created in 2021. The team monitors offenders living and/or working in West Fargo, as well as identifies unregistered offenders and completes investigations for crimes, including Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.

The team consists of one Investigations Captain, one Patrol Sergeant, three Patrol Officers, and one Criminal Intelligence Analyst. In 2025, the team monitored approximately 85 registered offenders.

# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division is split into two main units, the Criminal Investigations Unit and the Special Investigations Unit. Detectives assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit work cases involving property, personal and financial crimes.

Detectives assigned to the Special Investigations Unit are further assigned to units and task forces consisting of the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force, Cass County Drug Task Force, Metro Area Street Crimes Unit, U.S. Postal Service and U.S. Marshal Task Force. Detectives assigned to those units and task forces focus primarily on drug and human trafficking, bulk cash smuggling and gang activity.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit also houses a Criminal Intelligence Analyst who focuses on crime trends and targeting of crime issues.

This Division also manages special programs such as the Offender Registration.



701

INVESTIGATION CASES  
ASSIGNED AND REVIEWED

66%

ATTEMPT TO ID  
CLOSURE RATE

# DEPARTMENT

# PROGRAMS

## PURSUIT & PITS

A pursuit intervention technique (PIT) is a controlled maneuver that is an effective way to end pursuits when the suspect vehicle is fleeing law enforcement.

West Fargo Police Department officers conduct PIT maneuver training as another tool to safely end pursuits in order to protect the greater community.

PURSUIT STATS	2025
Pursuit Intervention Techniques	24
<b>TOTAL PURSUITS</b>	<b>51</b>



## FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS

FLOCK NOTABLE STATS*	2025
FLOCK-RELATED CASE REPORTS	51
ARRESTS LINKED TO ALPR HITS	17
VEHICLES RECOVERED	2
FIREARMS SEIZED	3
NARCOTICS CASES SUPPORTED	6
REAL-TIME ALERTS GENERATED	51

\*All statistics provided above are approximate and do not reflect the entirety of the calls for service.

## TIP LINE

The WFPD app and the tip411 anonymous text-a-tip system are 100% anonymous, as the technology removes all identifying information before law enforcement reviews the tips.

Those without a smartphone can share information by sending an anonymous tip via a cell phone to the police by texting the keyword WFPD and the message or tip to 847411 (tip411).

**TOTAL TIPS PROCESSED: 1,378**

# DRUG & EVIDENCE

# PROCESSING

TOTAL PIECES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN: 2,730

CASS COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE STATISTICS	2025 SEIZURES
METH	253.3 grams
MARIJUANA	1,715.4 grams
FENTANYL M30	3,261 pills
FENTANYL POWDER	186.38 grams
PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOMS	12 grams
FIREARMS	8 firearms

WEST FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS	SEIZURES
METH	1,294 grams
HEROIN	0.2 grams
MARIJUANA	1,116 grams
COCAINE	22 grams
FENTANYL	90 pills 304 grams powder
CURRENCY	\$13,578

## METRO-AREA STREET CRIMES UNIT

The West Fargo Police Department participates in the Fargo-Moorhead Metro-Area Street Crimes Unit. This unit is comprised of officers and deputies from the Cass County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Sheriff's Office, West Fargo Police Department, Fargo Police Department and Moorhead Police Department.

This unit works to identify, track, and apprehend gang members and their associates. In 2025, the unit made 202 total arrests, with 20 of those arrests being confirmed gang members or known associates. The unit made over 123 probable cause arrests.

**TOTAL ARRESTS: 202**

GANG ARRESTS	20 arrests
CONTROLLED PILLS	240 pills
MARIJUANA	2,753 grams
METH (GRAMS)	950.5 grams
FENTANYL	51.5 grams
MONEY SEIZED	\$20,935
FIREARMS SEIZED	24 firearms
TOTAL SEARCH WARRANTS	79 search warrants
ELECTRONIC SEARCH WARRANTS	29 search warrants
RESIDENTIAL SEARCH WARRANTS	23 search warrants
DNA SAMPLE SEARCH WARRANTS	6 search warrants

# COPS UNIT

The Community Outreach Programs and Services Unit (COPS Unit) of the West Fargo Police Department includes a Captain, Community Engagement Officer, nine School Resource Officers, and a Sergeant.

## PROGRAMS

The COPS Unit offers various programs to engage with the community, such as:

- Citizens Police Academy
- Night to Unite
- Police in the Park
- Cops & Dobbers Senior Bingo
- Senior Safety Academy
- Scam Presentations
- Coffee with a Cop
- Seasonal Coloring Contests
- Swimming Lessons
- Pink Patch Project

These initiatives aim to recognize West Fargo's diverse population and foster stronger community relationships. The unit's primary goal is to build trust between the police department and all residents.



# COPS UNIT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## BATTLE OF THE BADGES

The West Fargo Police Department participated in the 7th annual Battle of the Badges blood drive in partnership with Vitalant. Team Fire won this year's friendly competition with 65 units of donated blood compared to 62 units by Team Law.

## PINK PATCH PROJECT

The West Fargo Police Department started the Pink Patch Project in 2018. The pink patch, department challenge coin and apparel were sold to raise money for breast cancer awareness. In 2025, over \$3,600 was raised and donated to the Edith Sanford Breast Center.

## HOMETOWN HEROES ACADEMY

A three-day camp with the West Fargo Park District, Vision Zero ND and West Fargo Fire Department was filled with adventures, fun and learning. Activities ranged from a bike safety rodeo to fire station tours. Participants also had the chance to explore local public safety vehicles, engage in an important anti-bullying discussion and learn about seat belt safety.



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



Patrick Hanson,  
Sergeant,  
COPS Unit

## MEET THE SROS



Jason Balvik,  
West Fargo  
High School



Antoine Diop,  
Sheyenne  
High School



Lee Mewes,  
Horace  
High School



Sylvie Schweyen,  
Heritage  
Middle School



Charles Swiggum,  
Liberty  
Middle School



Tyler Crouse,  
Cheney  
Middle School



Dora Roll,  
Elementary  
Schools

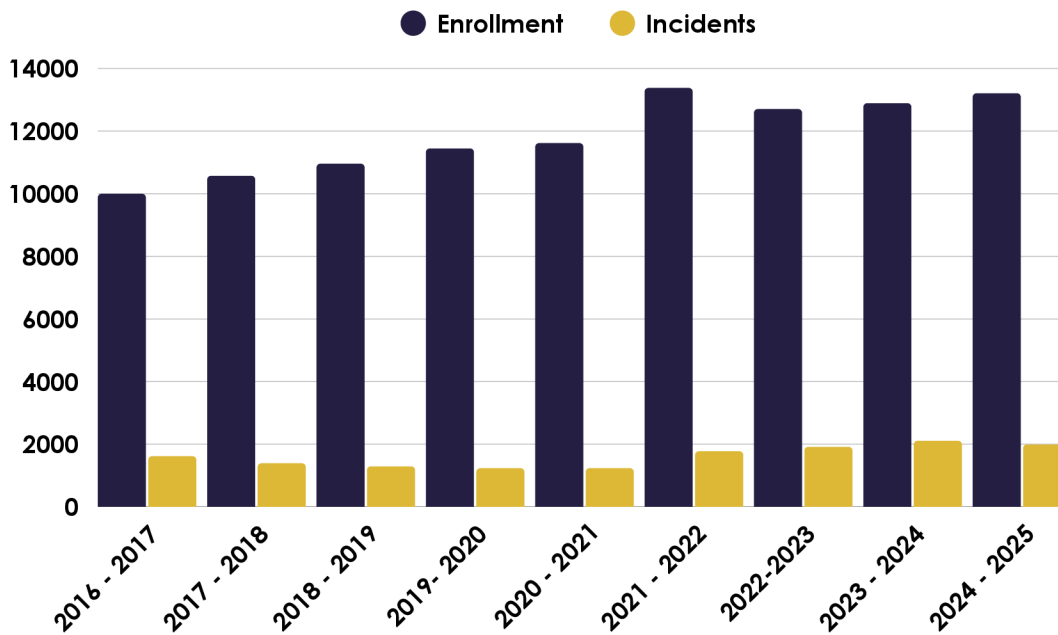


Todd Pearson,  
Elementary  
Schools



Sari Skwiera,  
Elementary  
Schools

## SCHOOL DISTRICT TOTALS



**9**  
SCHOOL  
RESOURCE  
OFFICERS

**23**  
SCHOOLS  
SERVICED



2025

# THANK YOU

FOR TAKING THE TIME TO REVIEW  
OUR 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WEST FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



PHONE :  
701-515-5500

ADDRESS :  
800 4<sup>th</sup> AVE. E. WEST FARGO, ND

WEBSITE :  
WESTFARGOPOLICE.COM



@WESTFARGOPOLICE