

2023

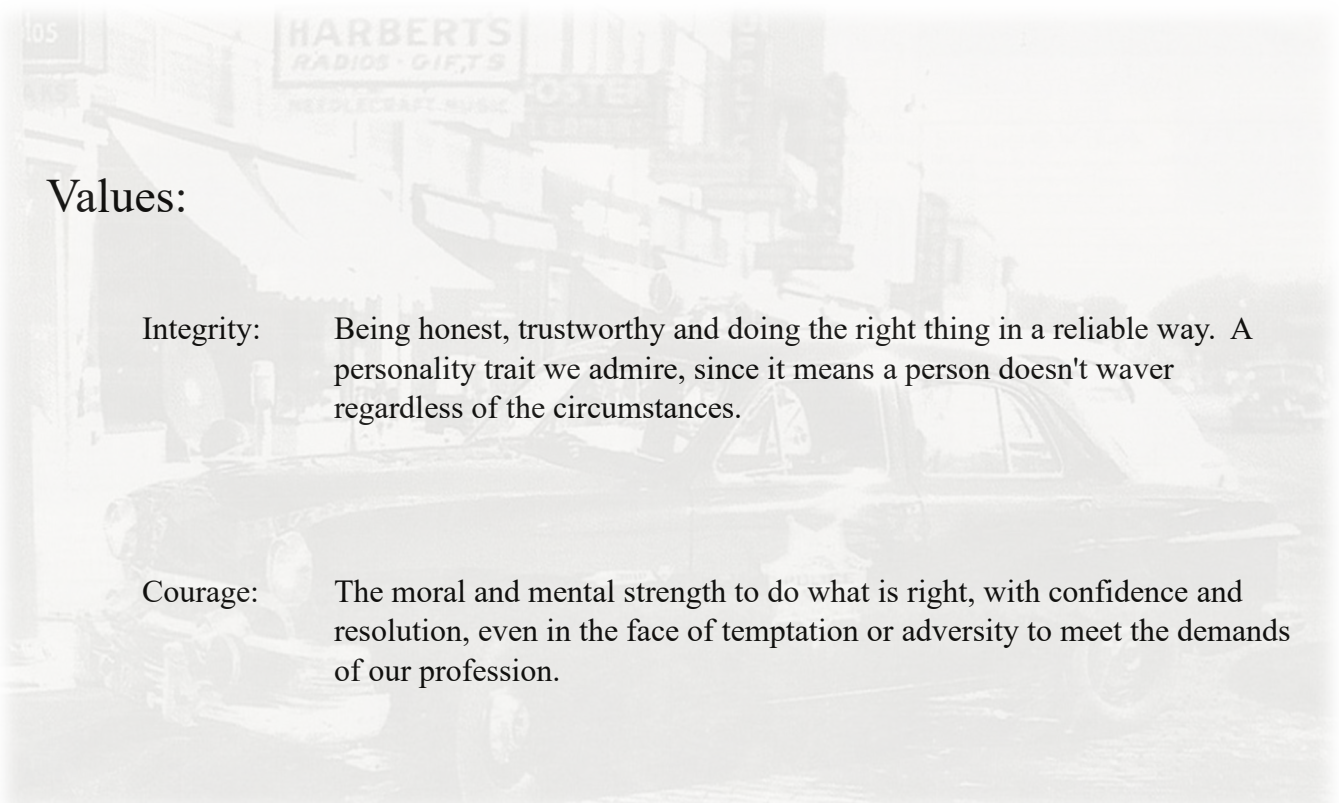


York Police Department Annual Report

Mission:

The York Police Department exists to serve and protect the citizens of York professionally and without prejudice and strives to be reflective of and responsive to the values of the community.

Values:

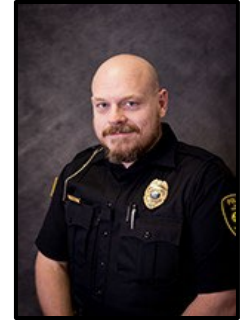


Integrity: Being honest, trustworthy and doing the right thing in a reliable way. A personality trait we admire, since it means a person doesn't waver regardless of the circumstances.

Courage: The moral and mental strength to do what is right, with confidence and resolution, even in the face of temptation or adversity to meet the demands of our profession.

Respect: To demonstrate regard to our community and co-workers. Esteem towards another individual and their skills, opinions, beliefs, ideas and culture.

Message from the Chief:



Mayor, Council Members, Administration, and Citizens,

I am proud to update you all on what your police department has accomplished in 2023.

Since my arrival in 2017, my vision for the York Police Department has been a professional, community-focused culture that offers residents and officers safety, confidence, and pride; making good hires is a foundational first step in building that culture. I am happy to say that, for the first time in 5 years, we are fully staffed. A coast-to-coast shortage of officers has led to much national and more local debate regarding hiring practices and standards for law enforcement. The York Police Department is proud to say that throughout this debate and shortage, we have not only maintained, but strengthened our background and hiring standards.

Another important investment in positive culture is training; we must invest in our officers' knowledge and skills in order to empower them to serve our community. You are all aware that state regulations now require law enforcement officers to complete more continuing education hours than ever before. By state standard, the York Police Department's 18 sworn officers were required to complete 648 hours of training in 2023, but we do not strive for "standard". We strive for more, and in 2023 we completed more than 1,950 hours of training – more than three times what is required by statute.

Our positive culture is visible and felt daily at York PD. We are investing in our officers with new technologies, wellness options, and training opportunities, and these investments are paying increasingly positive dividends. We had a significant number of positive contacts with local youth, took part in multiple community boards and programs, and saw considerable increases in proactive work. This department cares about the community, and we feel the community's support.

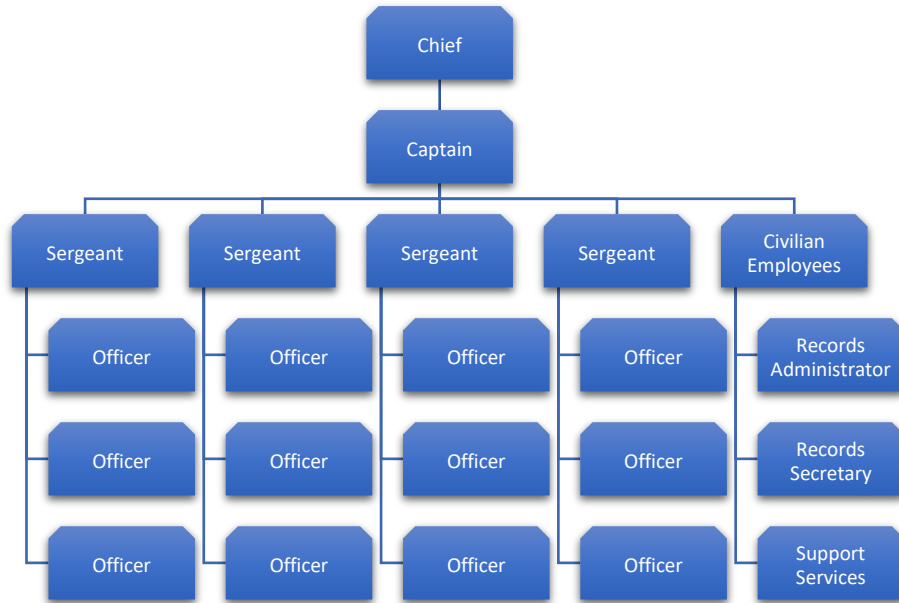
I am proud to serve my community as part of the York Police Department, and proud to have these men and women as my coworkers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edward Tjaden'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Edward Tjaden

Chief of Police

Organizational Chart:



Chief Ed Tjaden

Captain Russ Coffey

Sergeants	Officers	Civilian
Brit Koch	Todd Kelly	Deb Hansen-Rec. Admin
Ben Rodenberg	Riley Friesen	Christi Payne- Rec. Secretary
Jeff Brown	Brandon Mount	Jackie Weber-S. Services
Nick Shumway	Bricen Bates	
	Stephanie Schroeder	
	Mitch Meyer	
	Brandon Koch	
	Dallas Bruning	
	Taylor Keller	
	Justin Pachner	
	Kyle Mostrom	
	Sam Bowman	

Calls for Service:

Calls for service refer to the requests made to the police department by members of the public for assistance with various issues, requests or emergencies. This information helps with understanding and visualizing the demands for police service and how our agency responds. A 3-year review of this data indicates the demand for police services continues to rise.

Calls for Service-CFS:			
	2021	2022	2023
Totals	7621	8330	8808

The following data gives us a better understanding/overview of the various types of calls officers respond to throughout the course of their work.

Calls for Service-CFS:			
	2021	2022	2023
Welfare Checks	278	302	314
Animal Calls	463	565	590
Enumerations (Health)	178	268	192
Special Services	363	283	333
School Checks	126	61	132
Alarms	159	184	221
HHS/APS Intakes	203	277	215
Assaults	64	65	57
*Larceny/Thefts	228	188	317
*Vandalism -Criminal Mischief	67	63	107

*While a general increase is also present, it is noteworthy that, in the Larceny and Vandalism categories, cases with multiple offenses (such as a string of vehicle vandalisms) can impact annual numbers.

Criminal Enforcement:

The Police Department is responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining public order, and managing public safety. The primary duties of law enforcement include the investigation, apprehension, and detention of individuals suspected of criminal offenses. This information provides an overview of the types of crimes where the police department placed an individual in custodial arrest.

Law enforcement has the authority to place a person who is mentally ill and dangerous into protective custody until mental health board proceedings under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act may occur. Mental health is an area we are seeing an increase.

Offenses of Arrests:			
	2021	2022	2023
Assaults	18	33	40
Terroristic Threats	6	12	9
Child Abuse Neglect	2	2	17
Larceny - Thefts	20	10	17
Driving under Influence (alcohol-drugs)	14	26	27
Illegal Substances etc.	57	134	41
Warrants	58	56	59
Disorderly – Disturbing the Peace	2	6	5
Weapon Violations	9	28	15
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	4	9	8
Traffic Offenses/Other	16	42	51
Offenses Against Law Enforcement Officers			28
Homicide	0	0	1
Emerg. Protective Custody	3	14	21



Traffic Enforcement:

We finalized the implementation of electronic citations in 2023. This technology speeds up their processes, improves input accuracy, and enhances roadside safety for officers. Additionally, an increase in staffing distributes the calls for service workload and creates time for officers to complete proactive enforcement efforts. If staffing remains constant, we anticipate future years will be similar to 2023.

Traffic Enforcement:			
	2021	2022	2023
Verbal Warnings	1456	1618	1727
Defects	76	61	106
Written Warnings	119	85	393
Citations	175	145	259
Totals:	1826	1909	2485

Accidents:

We saw an overall increase in accidents in 2023, which could indicate a concern, however we attribute this to a change in our response to accidents. An increase in our staffing level is allowing us to respond to motor vehicle accidents that occur in a parking lot or on private property.

Accidents:			
	2021	2022	2023
Property Damage	160	150	173
Hit & Run	57	43	70
Personal Injury	22	35	19
Fatalities	0	0	0
Totals:	239	228	262

Juvenile Contacts/Interactions:

Police contact with youth consists of any in person interaction between a youth and a law enforcement officer(s). Below is information about our interaction with juveniles.

Juvenile engagement and forming partnerships with youth is an essential aspect of community policing. A challenge in releasing data about interactions with youth is that community engagement is often unrelated to a call for service, a crime, or some other type of interaction therefore it is often not tracked within police information systems. We participate in multiple outreach events; Transportation Exploration, kindergarten safety demonstrations, Halloween safety presentations, therefore the exact number of youths we engage with is unknown. Our proactive engagement information is approximate.

Juvenile Contacts:			
	2021	2022	2023
Abuse/neg/Assaults/sex abuse/welfare check/HHS intakes	228	245	254
Missing Person/Runaway	39	37	50
Uncontrollable/disorder conduct Curfew/truancy	48	80	72
Larceny/Thefts/Burglary	60	13	15
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief Property Damage	24	9	6
Alcohol /Illegal Substances	18	28	26
All related Traffic/tickets	100	131	162
Other	43	92	70
Engagement/outreach with juveniles	485	858	795
Totals:	1045	1493	1450



Ofc. B. Bates



Ofc. J. Pachner

Achievements:

In 2022 the Police Department created a fitness gym as a result of a generous donation from First Christian Church. 2023 marked the first full year of the gym being operational. The employees logged in over 433 hours of working out in the gym. This illustrates the appreciation the employees have of this donation as well as the dedication to their health/wellness.

The employees of the department remain focused and dedicated to training and completed over 1,952 hours of training and education.

Our employees continue to take pride in working with our community members as they strive to promote safety and security. As a result, 7 officers were awarded letters of commendations. These commendations included exemplary work in criminal investigations to saving a community members life.

The purchase of a Rigaku laser substance analyzer that determines the chemical composition of unknown substances was purchased. We are already seeing the benefits of this equipment as it has positively identified the presence of fentanyl on multiple occasions. This knowledge allows our officers to handle the substance with due caution so they remain safe.



Ofc. Bruning



Sgt. Rodenberg, Ofc. Friesen,
Ofc. Bruning, S.S. Weber