



CITY OF LA CRESCENT

Department of Police

Chief Luke M. Ahlschlager



January 28, 2026

Official Statement

On December 9th, 2025, during the early morning hours (3:30-4:00 a.m.), I was awakened with a phone call by officers who would later to my home to conduct a welfare check on an overnight guest. It was a non-criminal situation, but I became upset and used inappropriate language. I took full responsibility for my behavior. The city investigated the incident, disciplined me, and I accepted that discipline (Oral Reprimand). Since then, I have apologized to the officers involved, the department, and city leadership. I have asked for forgiveness and the chance to correct my actions and improve.

On December 30th, 2025, there was a "no confidence" vote signed by 6 out of the 8 full-time officers. This came as a surprise because I wasn't aware of the full extent of these concerns beforehand. I take this very seriously. I've met with every officer individually and arranged for an independent third party to speak with them. I've also reviewed the concerns with city leadership. My goal is to listen, address issues, and work together to move the department forward.

I intend to continue serving as Chief of Police. I know I'm not perfect, but I approach this with humility and a commitment to improve. I'm working on being more composed, approachable, and clear in communication. I understand the importance of trust and reliability, and to be ready when needed.

I am proud of what I have accomplished here at the La Crescent Police Department in the last 24 years and what we have accomplished as a team, and I believe we can overcome challenges together. Going forward, my focus is on listening, communicating responsibly, and taking action to show my commitment. Actions matter more than words, and I plan to prove that through what I do.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for your support as we work to strengthen this department.

Sincerely,