



# ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Serving Eau Claire Since 1872

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

2025

Chief's 2025 Message **6**

Communications Center **13**

Meet our New Officers **20**

2025 WLECHA Conference **25**

Woman Officer of the Year **27**

Outstanding Service Awards **28**

Germany Police Exchange **39**

Meeting the Challenge of Homelessness **40**

FIVE-EAU Podcast **41**

2025 Highlights **43**

Crime Statistics **45**

## CITY MANAGER

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Stephanie Hirsch

The City Manager directs the operations of the city to accomplish the goals and objectives set by the council.

## CITY COUNCIL

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Emily Berge - President  
Jessica Schoen - District 1  
Emily Anderson - District 2  
Aaron Brewster - District 3  
Clara Serrano - District 4  
Andrew Werthmann - District 5  
Charlie Johnson - At Large  
Larry Mboga - At Large  
Joshua Miller - At Large  
Nate Otto - At Large  
Ethan Reed - At Large

## POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

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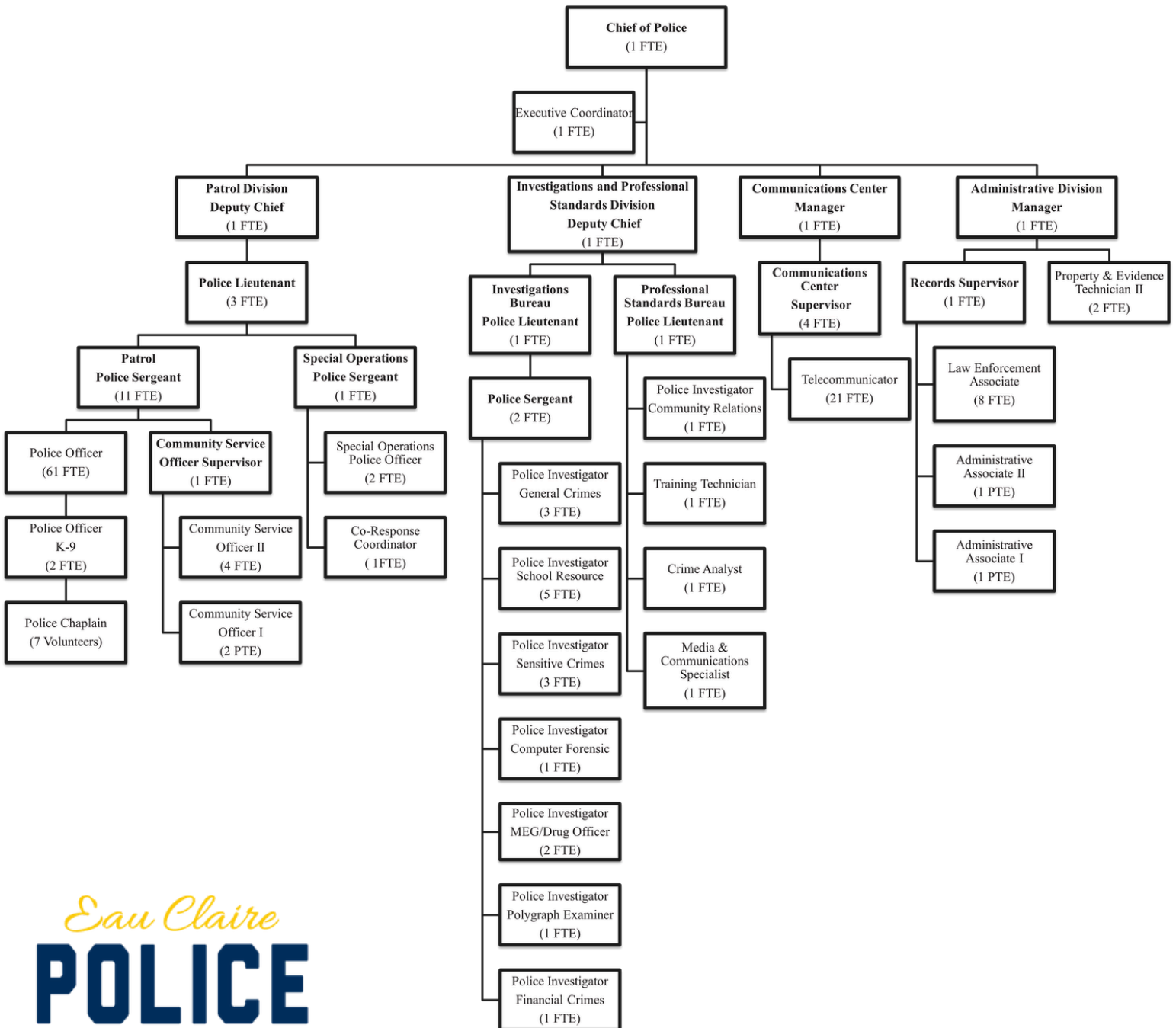
The Police and Fire Commission is a non-political board of citizens appointed by the City Council. They oversee personnel matters, including the hiring and discipline of sworn staff members, consistent with Wisconsin State Statute 62.13. We appreciate that these commission members volunteer their time and services to the Eau Claire community.

Disa Wahlstrand - President  
Stephanie Finn - Vice President  
David Anderson  
Casey Utke  
Jon Standiford



# PERSONNEL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

104 Sworn  
 18 Administrative/Professional  
 26 Communications Center  
 5 Full-Time/2 Part-Time Community Service Officers  
 7 Non-Sworn Volunteers  
 1 Co-Response Coordinator



# MISSION

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To enhance the quality of life in Eau Claire by partnering with the community to solve problems, reduce crime and disorder, safeguard individual rights and improve public safety.

# VISION

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To be a trusted police organization that ensures a safe and engaged community with an exceptional quality of life.

# VALUES

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- Integrity
- Transparency
- Human Dignity
- Commitment
- Compassion
- Professionalism



# FOUR PILLARS OF POLICING

The Four Pillars of Eau Claire Policing provide a framework for strengthening the trust and legitimacy needed for the department to be successful.

## PHILOSOPHY

- View our role as a community partner and guardian of peace and freedom
- Employ a community-policing philosophy that prioritizes partnerships and problem-solving
- Hire candidates who hold the right ethical qualities and care about our community

## ACCOUNTABILITY

- Ensure accountability through policy, best practices and oversight
- Utilize evidence-based and nationally recognized policies and procedures
- Subject policies to ongoing review

## TRANSPARENCY

- Strengthen trust by being transparent and open with our community
- Provide clear pathways for complaints and inquiries
- Remain present and engaged with the community

## TRAINING

- Provide continuing education to all personnel beyond mandated requirements
- Prioritize topics such as de-escalation strategies and fair and impartial policing
- Promote employee well-being and resiliency through education and prevention

# 2025 MESSAGE

## Chief Matt Rokus



I am pleased to present the 2025 Eau Claire Police Department Annual Report. It is an honor for the men and women of the Eau Claire Police Department to serve everyone who lives in, works in, and visits our community. Each day, our officers accept the responsibility to protect others, our dispatchers remain the calm voice during crisis while our professional staff provides exceptional service. I am proud to serve with such outstanding people.

“We will remain present and engaged in our community.”

Last year our team worked hard to provide quality service, protect the public and develop strategies with our community partners. While Eau Claire’s crime rate remained mostly steady, our department again handled a record amount of demand for services in 2025. In addition to these traditional responsibilities, our staff engaged in several successful initiatives. To name just a few, directed patrol reduced vehicle crashes on the Clairemont Avenue corridor, collaborative efforts with other city staff and community stakeholders improved the safety and orderliness in our downtown and issues associated with alcohol disorder were reduced in the Randall Park neighborhood. Our staff met these challenges with courage, professionalism and care for others. Their service inspires us all.

As we look forward, our goals remain straightforward. We will do our part to ensure a safe community, strengthen the trust placed in us, partner with others to make Eau Claire even better, and support the well-being of our employees. We will remain present and engaged in our community. Finally, we will continue to prioritize the hiring and professional development of people who share our values and care about our city.

I would like to thank the City Manager, the Eau Claire City Council and the Eau Claire Police and Fire Commission for your continued support. I am grateful for the service of the men and women of the Eau Claire Police Department and our loved ones who provide the encouragement necessary to do our work. Our past achievements and upcoming success are a result of these combined efforts.

# PATROL DIVISION

## Deputy Chief Derek Thomas



The Patrol Division serves as the foundation of the Eau Claire Police Department's commitment to public safety, community engagement, and transparency. The division is comprised of 63 patrol officers, including two K-9 officers, 12 sergeants, three lieutenants (district commanders), and one deputy chief, supported by a co-responder coordinator, and five full-time and two part-time community service officers.

The Patrol Division remains focused on community engagement, proactive policing that enhances quality of life, professional development, and officer wellness. Patrol personnel provide 24-hour coverage across three patrol districts: North, West and South. They respond to calls for service while emphasizing problem-solving, crime prevention, and proactive quality-of-life initiatives throughout the community.

Key highlights from 2025 include:

**Proactive Traffic Safety:** Officers conducted 27,504 traffic stops and self-initiated contacts, representing a 7.5% increase from 25,580 in 2024.

**K-9 Operations:** K-9 teams conducted 314 deployments, resulting in the seizure of more than five pounds of illegal drugs, while also providing 26 community presentations to strengthen public engagement and education.

**Public Recognition:** Patrol personnel received 24 awards and commendations recognizing exceptional service, professionalism, and dedication to the community.

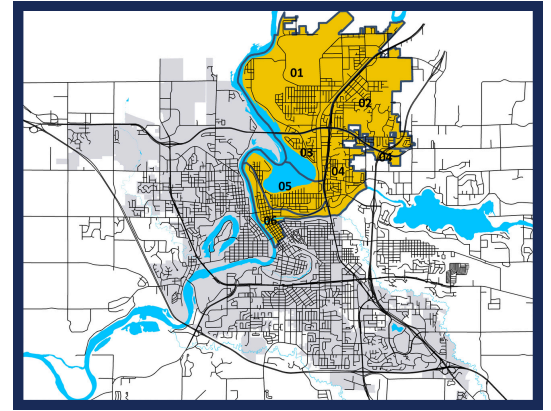
**Training and Professional Development:** Officers completed over 9,000 hours of patrol-specific training in areas including defensive tactics, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and emergency response, ensuring continued readiness and high operational standards.

Through these efforts, the Patrol Division continues to strengthen community partnerships, build public trust, and uphold the department's commitment to maintaining a safe, vibrant, and connected Eau Claire community.

# NORTH DISTRICT

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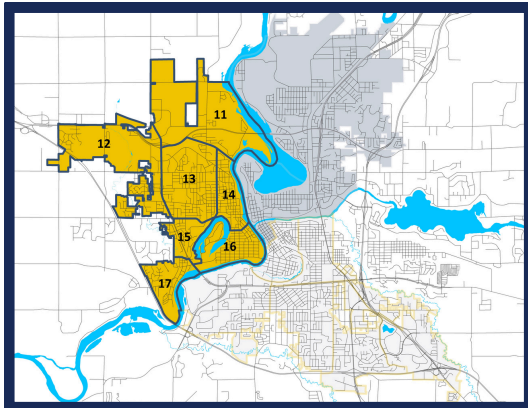
In 2025, North District officers identified the need to increase safety and reduce disorder in the downtown area. Officers maintained regular contact with downtown businesses, proactively patrolled identified problem areas, and engaged in community-oriented policing for long-term problem-solving. Officers regularly patrolled parking ramps and bar establishments to prevent issues or take necessary enforcement action. In 2025, officers engaged in 1,201 self-initiated contacts in the downtown area alone.



The diligent work of North District officers resulted in a 26% decrease in calls for service in our downtown area compared to 2024. Our North District officers are committed to keeping the downtown area a safe and usable space for our entire community and will continue our work in this important area.

# WEST DISTRICT

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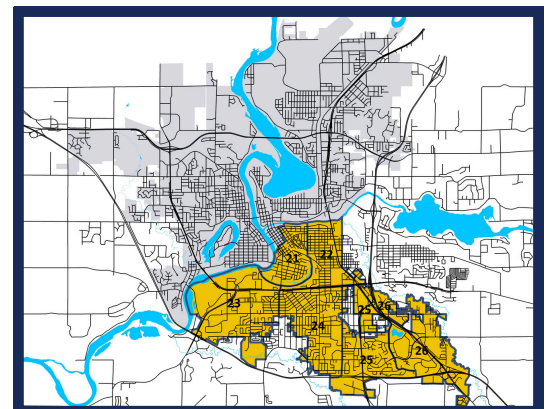


In addition to day-to-day calls for service, cases, and follow-up investigations, one area of proactive patrol efforts by West District officers was reducing disorder in the Randall Park neighborhood. These efforts resulted in a decrease in disorder call types by 22% when compared to 2024 data. West District officers also increased traffic enforcement in targeted areas, including the Clairemont Avenue corridor and North Crossing. Traffic enforcement increased throughout the year, finishing the last quarter of 2025 with an 18% increase. This coincided with a reduction in crashes at specific intersections. Our West District officers are committed to being present in our district, making proactive contacts, and striving for welcoming neighborhoods and safe roads.

# SOUTH DISTRICT

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Traffic crashes, specifically on Clairemont Avenue and other major thoroughfares, were identified as an area of emphasis in 2025. Clairemont is utilized by over 30,000 vehicles on average each day. With a traffic flow that significant, and as one of the major arterial streets in Eau Claire, Clairemont was identified as one of the primary areas to target for a reduction in traffic crashes. Multiple strategies were utilized to include increased enforcement and additional presence. Additionally, crash data was analyzed and provided to officers to help identify the primary areas of concern in addition to identifying the most prevalent time and day of traffic crashes.



A significant and highly impactful increase in traffic stops along the Clairemont corridor was observed throughout 2025. In total, 507 traffic stops were conducted in the South District on Clairemont, this accounted for a 41% increase. Through these strategies and the hard work of South District officers, traffic crashes were reduced by 13.5% as compared to 2024.

# INVESTIGATIONS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

Deputy Chief Benjamin Frederick



Our Investigations Bureau consists of detectives, with specialized training and expertise, who investigate complex incidents of crimes against people and property.

Detectives completed 544 investigations, reflecting their critical role in maintaining community safety, restoring justice for crime victims, and strengthening public trust. Partnering with the Wisconsin Department of Justice Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, detectives assisted in 45 child exploitation cases. This year, Detective Chaz Walton was recognized as the ICAC Investigator of the Year (page 26)!

## CHIPPEWA VALLEY REGIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB

As technology increasingly facilitates crime, the Chippewa Valley Regional Computer Forensics Lab (CVRCFL), led by the Eau Claire Police Department, plays a vital role in investigations throughout the region. CVRCFL members conducted forensic analysis on over 418 digital devices in 279 investigations.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

Funded through a cost-sharing partnership with the Eau Claire Area School District, school resource officers (SROs) play an important role in building trust with students, staff, and families, while supporting youth victims of crime and promoting safe learning environments. In 2025, SROs had 1,983 contacts with students and families providing mentorship, crisis intervention, and investigative support.

## WEST CENTRAL DRUG TASK FORCE

Comprised of law enforcement representing six counties in the region, the West Central Drug Task Force (WCDF) targets major drug-related criminal activity. In 2025, there were 321 investigations resulting in 361 arrests.

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- WI Department of Justice
- WI Department of Corrections
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Eau Claire County Department of Human Services
- Eau Claire Area School District
- Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy Center
- Dunn County Medical Examiner's Office
- Eau Claire County Sexual Assault Response Team
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Eau Claire & Chippewa County Crime Stoppers

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

## BUREAU

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The Professional Standards Bureau consists of three sections: Training and Standards, Community Outreach and Support Services. This bureau ensures integrity and transparency, quality hiring and community engagement. Their responsibilities also include crime data analysis, court services and employee wellness.

Training and Standards oversees policy development, training, and ensuring the department delivers premier service to our community. With the addition of a Training Coordinator, we have taken a focused look at expounding on the exceptional ongoing training provided to our police officers as well as our community. Efforts include coordinated training with community partners, community and business safety presentations, ongoing and realistic training for our police officers, as well as identifying any potential growth areas for the future.

The Professional Standards Bureau supports the City Attorney's Office with the prosecution of ordinance violations, traffic citations, and quality of life issues for city residents. Our crime analyst supports our agency with crime intelligence dissemination, agency planning efforts, as well as reporting to and working with local stakeholder groups. The data collected from our crime analyst is monitored and supports the efficiency of our department operations.

## RECRUITMENT & HIRING

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In 2025, the Professional Standards Bureau managed 50 comprehensive background investigations, hiring employees with integrity and competence. Orientation programs were provided for 22 new staff members, including 11 police officers, six telecommunicators, three community service officers, a crime analyst, and an executive coordinator.

*The Future of Policing Starts with You:* Media & Communications Specialist Shannon Hoyt and Public Information Officer Benjamin Hundt crafted ECPD's 2025 recruitment video. The video was created with a deep focus on childhood passions and the connections those passions have to a career in policing. Each officer at the Eau Claire Police Department remembers feeling that "call to service." To evoke emotion in our community and prospective candidates, the video captures the beauty of growing up to serve. We also wanted to show the community the many specialties our department offers and how the interests, passions and skills officers had as children can be used within our agency.

The recruitment video was featured in *Police1* as a part of an ongoing series designed to celebrate best practices in police recruitment campaigns.

# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Manager Kelly Thompson



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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The Administrative Services Division of the Eau Claire Police Department consists of the records section and the property and evidence section. The division is managed by the Administration Division manager, who is responsible for overseeing both sections and managing the department's multi-million-dollar budget. In addition to budget management, the Division Manager coordinates grant applications and administration at the federal, state and local levels, and supervises the implementation of key technology projects across the department.

## RECORDS

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The records section is staffed by a full-time records supervisor, eight full-time law enforcement associates (LEAs), and two part-time administrative associates. The records section operates within a shared space at the Law Enforcement Center alongside records personnel from the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office. While each agency maintains separate records for its respective department, this centralized location facilitates shared responsibilities and ensures convenient access for the public to services from either agency at the service window.

A primary responsibility of the records section is processing public open records requests. Personnel in this section receive specialized training to ensure compliance with the complex Wisconsin state statutes and the Freedom of Information Act governing such requests.

Additionally, records section staff manage a wide range of documentation, including incident reports, narratives, photographs, accident reports, arrest records, audio and video recordings, juvenile referrals, and traffic-related citations. With advancements in technology, the majority of these records are now created and stored in electronic or digital formats.

In 2025, the records section responded to 3,798 open records requests and processed 1,080 online crime report forms. These totals are consistent with or slightly higher than, the numbers reported in 2024.

Since the implementation of body-worn cameras in 2022, the number of open records requests that include video has increased. In 2022, approximately 5.5% of records requests involved video, compared to 8.2% of requests in 2025. This increase is significant because each video must be reviewed from start to finish by law enforcement staff to identify and redact any information that is confidential under Wisconsin law.

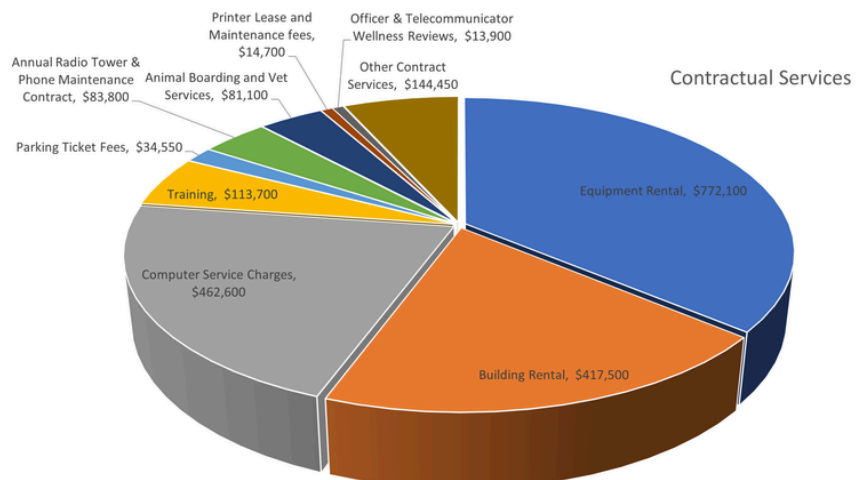
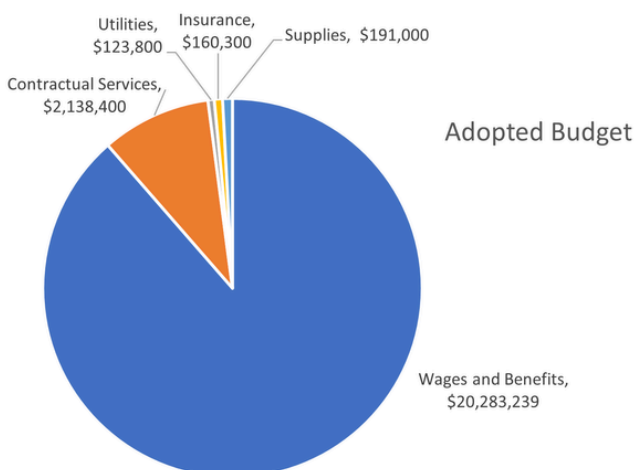
In March 2024, the Wisconsin Legislature passed Act 253, which allows law enforcement agencies to charge fees for redactions in certain circumstances, particularly when the requester may benefit financially from the released video. This fee, which took effect in May 2024, helps offset the costs associated with reviewing, reproducing and redacting records so that these expenses are borne by the requester rather than city taxpayers.

## PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

The property and evidence section is staffed by two full-time property and evidence technicians. These technicians are responsible for the receipt, storage, safekeeping, release, and disposal of property and evidence, including vehicles, that comes into the custody or control of the Eau Claire Police Department, as well as under a joint agreement with the Eau Claire County Sheriff’s Office. Their duties also include maintaining security, chain of custody, and adhering to policies for the proper disposal of property in compliance with city ordinances and state and federal laws.

Both of the current property and evidence technicians are Level II technicians, which include added responsibilities such as assisting with evidence collection and management at crime scenes, removing evidence, cleaning drying booths, and calibrating preliminary breath test (PBT) devices.

## 2025 DEPARTMENT BUDGET



# COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

## Manager Greg Rosno



The Communications Center consists of 21 telecommunicators, four supervisors and one manager. Communications Center staff is responsible for answering all emergency and non-emergency calls for service throughout Eau Claire County, providing service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The staff is also responsible for radio communications with all law, fire and EMS agencies within the county.

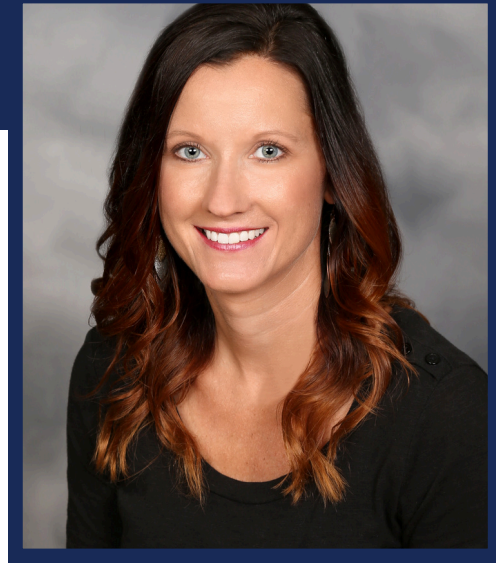
Through these communications, the staff is the first point of contact for callers in emergency situations, providing instructions that keep callers and responders safe, giving lifesaving directions in medical emergencies, and relaying vital information. In addition to these responsibilities, the Communications Center staff enters and removes protection orders, warrants, missing persons and missing property in a national database, monitors weather and sets off weather sirens, and assists our responders and community with any other needs they may have.

Calls	2023	2024	2025
Non-Emergency	76,154	72,725	66,342
Emergency	35,978	45,048	36,119
Outgoing	34,782	39,524	34,811
Total	146,914	157,297	137,272

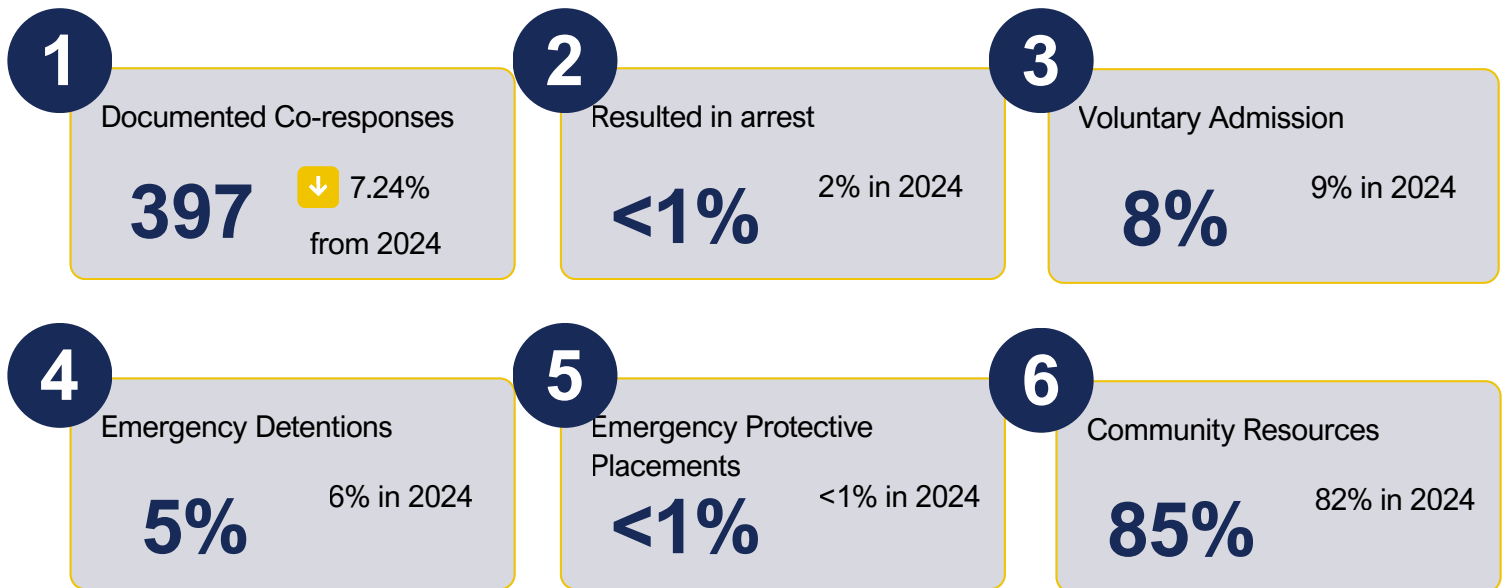
In 2025, the Communications Center answered 98.4% of 911 calls within 10 seconds of dial, far exceeding the nationwide benchmark of 90% of calls answered within 20 seconds. Throughout the year, the Communications Center continued preparations for the increased Next Generation 911-related responsibilities and duties. The center also expanded its use of Next Generation technologies through using a software Prepared Live. Prepared Live enables additional communication methods for telecommunicators with callers, including sending callers a link to share their video feed and further interaction through texts after the initial call to report the situation. The backup center transitioned to the Emergency Services IP Network (ESINET) for call delivery, providing the completed infrastructure for Next Generation 911 call delivery. The Communications Center applied for and received grant funding in 2025 to enhance continuity of operations equipment, as well as provide additional advanced training opportunities for staff. This includes certification of newly hired telecommunicators in Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols, as well as quality assurance trainings. The training and upgrading of equipment ensure the continued preparedness and readiness of the Communications Center to provide a high level of service for all of Eau Claire County to meet the growing needs of our expanding community.

# MENTAL HEALTH CO-RESPONSE

## Counselor Lita Prorok



Throughout 2025, the Co-Response Program continued to have two staff members providing mental health assistance to the department. Lita Prorok and Alyssa Monson (Eau Claire County Department of Human Services) operated the same as in past years, working within the Patrol Division to provide immediate clinical response and/or follow up needs to our community members struggling with symptoms related to mental health or substance abuse. In 2025, the following data was collected:

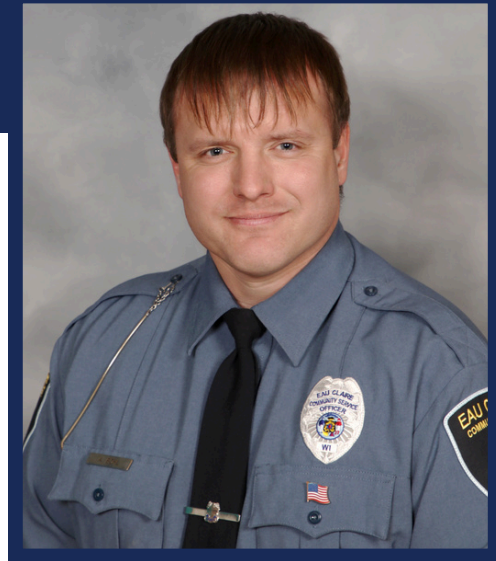


1. There were 397 documented co-responses in 2025, down from 428 in 2024.
2. Less than 1% resulted in arrest. The arrests that occurred were mandatory arrest situations as required by State Statute.
3. 5% resulted in emergency detentions, which are involuntary mental health holds.
4. Less than 1% resulted in emergency protective placements, which are involuntary holds related to dementia/Alzheimer's disease.
5. 8% resulted in the individual voluntarily admitting themselves to an inpatient mental health facility.
6. 85% of contacts resulted in the person remaining in the community with discussion about services either already in place or available to them.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM

## Supervisor Andy Bohl

The Community Service Officer (CSO) Program is a subdivision of the Patrol Division. CSOs are a non-sworn position performing a variety of support tasks for the police department and Eau Claire community, focusing on patrol support and animal-related calls for service. The program currently consists of a supervisor, four full-time positions and several part-time positions.



The CSO supervisor is responsible for updating procedures, assisting with hiring and scheduling, supporting fleet maintenance, helping with animal and patrol calls, and coordinating with other city departments and community agencies, including Community Services, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, City Engineering, the Streets Division, the Eau Claire County Treasury, and the Eau Claire Community Humane Association.

Full-time patrol assist CSOs respond to non-emergent calls for service that require a police report but do not involve safety concerns requiring a sworn officer. They investigate these calls, patrol parks and public spaces, take reports when a suspect is not present, handle property intake, and alleviate appropriate calls for service. Animal Control is staffed by a full-time CSO on weekdays and a part-time CSO on nights and weekends, and is responsible for investigating animal abuse complaints, at-large animals, licensing issues, and nuisance complaints.

Part-time CSOs continue to serve vital support roles, rotating shifts to assist the department and community with responsibilities such as animal control, fleet maintenance, transports, barricade placement, and other department-related tasks.

In 2025, CSOs began assisting with onboarding new police officer hires by training with them on CSO calls before they attend the law enforcement academy, helping them become familiar with department operations and equipment prior to entering the Patrol Field Training program.

# SWORN SUPERVISORS

OFFICER	UNIT #	RANK
Matthew Rokus	1	Chief
Derek Thomas	2	Deputy Chief
Benjamin Frederick	3	Deputy Chief
Mark Pieper	6	Lieutenant
Jesse Henning	7	Lieutenant
Brandon Dohms	8	Lieutenant
Bridget Coit	9	Lieutenant
Olivia Erl	10	Lieutenant
Joshua O'Malley	16	Sergeant
Andrew Wise	17	Sergeant
Adam Taylor	18	Sergeant
Michael Major	19	Sergeant
Arthur Jaquish	20	Sergeant
Jacob Gullickson	21	Sergeant
Matthew Leque	22	Sergeant
Cory Reeves	23	Sergeant
Mitchell Hunsley	24	Sergeant
Ryan Lambeseder	25	Sergeant
Adam Bembnister	26	Sergeant
Robert Schreier	27	Sergeant
Matthew Sanda	28	Sergeant
Michael Cullen	29	Sergeant

# SWORN OFFICERS

OFFICER	UNIT #	OFFICER	UNIT #	OFFICER	UNIT #
Kyle Anderson	101	Sam Sperry	127	Jeng Vang	154
Charles Walton	102	Jacob Roberts	128	Matthew Toro	155
Kevin Putzy	103	Derek Jack	129	Michael Bulin	156
Kyle Jentzsch	104	Jimmy Vang	130	Vito Carlo	157
Benjamin Hundt	105	Zac Becker	131	Skyler Klevgard	158
Justin Greuel	106	Benjamin Knopp	132	Tyler Heino	159
Joshua Miller	107	Joseph Perkins	133	Chad Tillerias	160
Ryan Prock	108	Tre Johnson	134	Jake Mueller	161
Philip Noland	109	Brian Leach	135	Alison Murphy	162
Wayne Bjorkman	110	Brianna Then	136	David Dibble	163
Zachary Burnett	111	Madali Harer	137	Thomas Freitag	164
Jacob Olson	112	Thomas Ramboldt	139	Tyler Schreiter	165
Austin Summers	113	Ariana Larson	140	Jacob Lewis	166
Nicholas Rusin	114	Connor Beres	141	Kenneth Schuh	167
Mark Vang	115	Lucas Tisol	142	Aaron Jensen	168
Tyler Larsen	116	Elijah Froemming	143	Emily Anderson	169
Abram Palmer	117	Craig Richter	144	Hailey Karnowski	170
Aaron Schiefelbein	118	Marcus Kinblom	145	Daniel Layhew	171
Anthony Briski	119	Jeremy Reeves	146	Brayden Wolf	172
Breanna Montgomery	120	Margaret Andersen	147	Cole Conway	173
David Chapin	121	Marcus Drees	148	Andrew Brinkmoeller	174
Dominic Meincke	122	Nathan Kelly	149	Luis Martinez	175
Tom Xiong	123	Matthew Pahl	150	Emmanuel Osunlana	176
Timothy Aldrich	124	James Tarbell	151	Dylan Castro	177
Noah Young	125	Alexis Wold	152	Lucas Easker	178
Paul Asselin	126	Shawn Curtis	153		

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER	UNIT #
Andy Bohl	210
Patricia Garza	211
Matthew Mousel	212
Bennett Running	213
Zoe Theis	215
Destany Pedersen	216

# COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Manger		UNIT #	
Gregory Rosno		5	
Supervisors	UNIT #	TELECOMMUNICATORS	UNIT #
Aileen Bush	70	Nicole Bauer	81
Danielle Wik	71	Tiffany Siverling	82
Benjamin Williams	72	Melissa Stone	83
Brittany Bowe	73	Sarayah Warthan	84
TELECOMMUNICATORS		Hunter Lellman	85
Carrie Hansen	74	Benjamin Klapperich	86
Jessica Achterberg	75	Savanna Anderson	87
Jocelyn Myers-Knuth	76	Shawnda Kaeding	88
Megan Kitchner	77	Melissa Pemberton	89
James Forrest	78	Calli Brown	90
Hannah Johnson	79	Ingrid Ritter	91
Scott Turner	80	Madisen Scharlau	92

# PROFESSIONAL STAFF

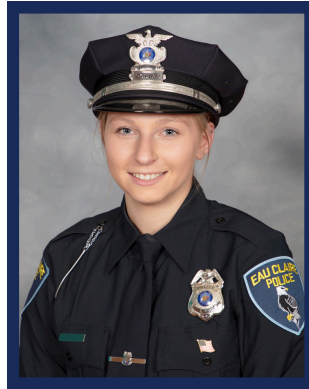
SUPERVISORS	UNIT #	RANK
Kelly Thompson	4	Administrative Division Manager
Erica Strassman		Records Supervisor
STAFF		TITLE
Lita Prorok		Co-Response Coordinator
Kayla Tisol		Executive Coordinator
Teresa Simbro		Law Enforcement Associate
Angela Hjerleid		Law Enforcement Associate
Aimee Wold		Law Enforcement Associate
Meredith La Valley		Law Enforcement Associate
Stephanie Berg		Law Enforcement Associate
Roxan Spaeth		Law Enforcement Associate
Alyssa Schulner		Law Enforcement Associate
Colleen Campbell		Law Enforcement Associate
Cathy Schroeder		Law Enforcement Associate
Christine Kniep		Law Enforcement Associate
Fallon Westlund		Property & Evidence Technician
Tessa Nyhus		Property & Evidence Technician
Kelli Kewin		Training Technician
Haley Benton		Crime Analyst
Shannon Hoyt		Media & Communications Specialist

# Meet Our New Officers

In 2025, ECPD welcomed 11 new officers to its ranks. Of the 11 sworn in, two were returning officers. Nine officers were sent to a 720-hour police training academy, followed by ECPD's 15-week police training officer program.



Aaron Jensen



Emily Anderson



Hailey Karnowski



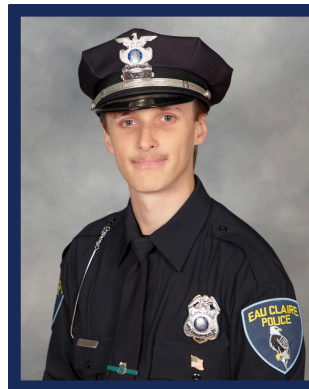
Daniel Layhew



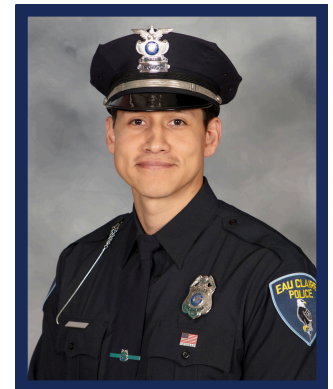
Brayden Wolf



Cole Conway



Andrew  
Brinkmoeller



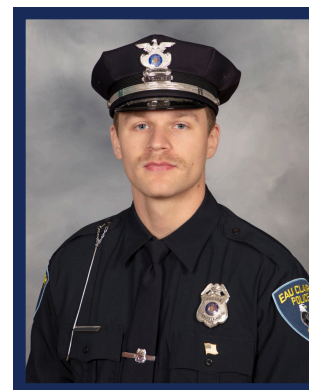
Luis Martinez



Emmanuel  
Osunlana



Dylan Castro



Lucas Easker

# K9





## K-9 BOLT

K-9 Bolt is a purebred German Shepherd, born in Italy and raised and trained in Germany. He joined the patrol division in Spring 2022 and was named in honor of fallen officer Robert Bolton. Bolt has worked with his handler, Officer Anthony Briski, for three years. The pair completed a six-week K-9 training program in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Bolt is trained in narcotics detection, tracking, apprehension and handler protection.

*K-9 Bolt is not trained in the detection of marijuana.*

**2025 DEPLOYMENTS  
180**

### 2025 SEIZURE TOTALS

Amphetamine	27.43 GM
Cocaine	8.43 GM
Fentanyl	21.94 GM 55 DU
Heroin	1.18 GM
Marijuana	173.29 GM
Meth	1,773.61 GM
Prescription	204 DU



## K-9 MANSO

K-9 Manso is a purebred Belgian Malinois, born October 21, 2016, in Chevennes, France. Originally trained for French Ring Sport, he later transitioned to police work. In Fall 2018, he was paired with his handler Officer Austin Summers and completed a six-week basic handler course in Albuquerque, New Mexico, becoming certified and starting duty on November 20, 2018. Manso responds to commands in French, German, and English. He's trained in narcotics detection, tracking, apprehension and handler protection.

### 2025 SEIZURE TOTALS

Amphetamine	19.27 GM
Cocaine	.95 GM
Fentanyl	.89 GM
Heroin	0
Marijuana	65.24 GM
Meth	15.24 GM
Prescription	95 DU

**2025 DEPLOYMENTS  
153**



## K-9 MURPHY

K-9 Murphy is ECPD's comfort K-9. He's an Australian Labradoodle, born on April 17, 2022. He was graciously donated by Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles and began his service with our department on June 13, 2022.

Murphy serves an important role within the police department. He provides comfort to people during times of crisis, including City of Eau Claire personnel and communities impacted by violence, tragedy or traumatic events. K-9 Murphy works out of the Professional Standards Bureau.

In 2025, K-9 Murphy attended several events, including Run with the Cops, National Night Out, Dog Days of Summer and even Country Jam USA.

### 2025 MURPHY TOTALS

Treats	650
Chief's Sandwiches	1
Cuddles	∞
Squirrel Apprehensions	0

# WLECHA 2025 Conference

The City of Eau Claire was selected to host the 2025 Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association Conference, bringing together dozens of law enforcement officers, K-9 handlers, trainers, and public safety professionals from across the state. The conference provided an opportunity for attendees to participate in specialized training sessions, workshops, and demonstrations focused on K-9 operations, including tracking, detection, apprehension techniques, and handler safety. Dozens of sites were utilized across the greater Eau Claire area.



# 2025 Internet Crimes Against Children Investigator of the Year

Detective Charles 'Chaz' Walton was recognized at the Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Conference in May of 2025 as the ICAC Investigator of the Year. Investigator Walton is incredibly dedicated and thorough as he works his way through these often-difficult cases in an effort to protect the victims of these crimes and ensure the people who prey on children are arrested and prosecuted.



# 2025 Woman Officer of the Year

Officer Ariana Larson was recognized at the Wisconsin Association of Women in Policing's 2026 Conference. She received the award for Woman Officer of the Year.

"Officer Larson has been a member of the Eau Claire Police Department for over 4 years. During that time, she has continuously exemplified courage, professionalism, and leadership well beyond expectations," said Deputy Chief Derek Thomas.





# OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

ECPD's annual Recognition and Awards Ceremony serves as an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and exceptional efforts of our team members, both sworn and non-sworn, who go above and beyond their duty. Recognizing their achievements helps reinforce our commitment to our department vision and values.



# INNOVATOR IN POLICING

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER BENJAMIN HUNDT  
MEDIA SPECIALIST SHANNON HOYT

Celebrates an employee(s) who introduces creative solutions, technologies, strategies, or initiative projects that enhance department operations, community safety, or officer well-being.

Shannon and Ben have worked tirelessly to bring creative solutions, technologies, and projects forward that not only enhance the department's ability to communicate essential messaging to the public, they have also shattered expectations with their ability to showcase the agency in so many ways.



# GUARDIAN OF THE COMMUNITY

## OFFICER ZACHARY BURNETT

Recognizes an officer or civilian employee who has shown exceptional commitment to building trust and positive relationships within the community through outreach, education, or innovative programs.

What is remarkable about Officer Burnett is the level of professionalism and positive attitude he brings to the job. Officer Burnett has largely taken it upon himself to build relationships and trust with the unhoused population in the City of Eau Claire. He goes out of his way to proactively contact these individuals to build rapport, gain trust, and ensure we have a safe community.



# EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

## SERGEANT MICHAEL MAJOR

Awarded to a supervisor or leader who has exemplified exceptional leadership, inspiring their team to achieve outstanding performance while fostering a culture of respect, innovation, and collaboration.

Sgt. Michael Major has been a supportive leader and supervisor throughout his time with the Investigations Bureau and the last year. Sgt. Major has shown an unmatched level of commitment through his work with ECASD and the JPA Program. He recognizes and fills roles that are needed to sustain our working relationship with our community and particularly the youth in our community.



# INVESTIGATION OF THE YEAR

SERGEANT MICHAEL MAJOR

DETECTIVE ZAC BECKER

DETECTIVE CHARLES 'CHAZ' WALTON

Acknowledges exemplary work in a particular investigation; or an employee who exhibits a pattern of excellence by demonstrating outstanding skill, perseverance, and dedication in solving complex cases and bringing offenders to justice.

Sgt. Major, Det. Becker and Det. Walton, were recognized for their work on a major child sexual assault case. These investigators have a very victim-centered approach to how they conduct investigations and did an incredible job staying focused and working with the juveniles in this 2025 case.



# COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

## SERGEANT ADAM TAYLOR

Presented to an employee who consistently performs their duties at an exemplary level, showcasing attention to detail, professionalism, and a relentless pursuit of excellence in their work.

Sgt. Taylor has shown exceptional dedication to his career and has always been there for anyone he works with as well as supervises. He has also been the lead in high profile cases along with some cases many may not even know about. In those times, he always takes his job and investigation very seriously along with being thorough and working very hard.



# BEHIND THE BADGE

## TRAINING TECHNICIAN KELLI KEWIN

Recognizes non-sworn personnel who provide critical support to the department, such as dispatchers, analysts, or administrative staff, ensuring smooth operations and efficiency.

There are very few people who could take the job of “Department Mom” with as much grace and efficiency as Kelli. She is one of the first points of contact for new employees; as she shepherds them smoothly through their orientation, while still being an endless resource for those of us who have been here for a while.

She is also a truly kind person, who cares about the people of this department; often going above and beyond to make sure that they are taken care of.



# MERITORIOUS SERVICE

## TELECOMMUNICATOR CARRIE HANSEN

Granted to an employee who has displayed exceptional dedication and sustained exemplary service over an extended period, contributing significantly to the vision and values of the department.

Carrie has demonstrated and provided significant impact to the Communications Center training program throughout 2025. Carrie obtained additional certification through NENA as a Certified Training Officer in their program. Carrie is patient, kind, and explains thoroughly the answers to the questions of “why,” building confidence and high performing team members.

Carrie is a natural teacher that has refined and developed her skillset through determination, humility and hard work.



# OUTSTANDING TRAINING MENTOR

## OFFICER KYLE ANDERSON

Honors an officer or staff member who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in training or mentoring others, ensuring the growth, confidence, and readiness of future department personnel.

Officer Anderson has been an amazing trainer and instructor for years. He has taught hundreds of officers invaluable skills for their law enforcement career including communications, crisis response, assessment, force options and unified tactics.

He has also coordinated many large training scenarios that have been critical for our entire community.



# TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

## OFFICER JAMES TARBELL

Honors an individual whose advanced technical skills in areas such as cybersecurity, forensics, or technology implementation have greatly benefited the department's operations.

Officer Tarbell goes beyond what is expected of a patrol officer regarding areas of technical expertise. He built a website from the ground up that allows officers to accurately and efficiently complete TraCS reports. He also assisted with completely reorganizing the Patrol Procedural Manual, along with Sharepoint functions, allowing officers to quickly access reference material.



# SHIELD OF VALOR

## OFFICER ARIANA LARSON

Presented to an officer who demonstrates extraordinary bravery and courage in the line of duty, going above and beyond to protect lives and uphold justice in the face of imminent danger.

On April 3, 2025, Officer Larson was assigned as a police training officer (PTO) when a pursuit ensued. There was a threat to the Eau Claire community, and officers were in a position where they needed to stop that threat. Officer Larson remained calm and composed, guiding the new officer through the pursuit. The two eventually went head-on into the suspect vehicle, helping bring the pursuit to an end.

Officer Larson, your dedication to our community, the level of leadership you displayed as a police training officer, and selflessness of your actions is and was extraordinary.



## STAR POLICE EXCHANGE: OFFICER LUCAS TISOL

In 2025, I had the privilege of representing the Eau Claire Police Department on a two-week program in the German state of Lower Saxony as part of the STAR International Police Exchange. I am the second officer from ECPD to participate in the program and the first to take part in the German exchange. I was joined by officers from the Montgomery County, Maryland Police Department and the Maryland State Police. During the program, I lived with two German police officers, which gave me the opportunity to experience both their professional responsibilities and daily life outside of work.

One of the biggest differences I observed was in how law enforcement agencies are organized. In Germany, there are no individual city or county police departments. Instead, policing is handled at the state and federal levels. Germany, which is roughly twice the size of Wisconsin, is divided into 16 states. Each state's police force is responsible for all law enforcement functions, from local patrol to highway enforcement, within its jurisdiction.

Another highlight of the trip was participating in a patrol ride-along with officers assigned to the city of Hanover. During the ride-along, I observed that, at its core, policing is very similar to what we experience in Eau Claire.

We responded to a disturbance involving an intoxicated individual, assisted someone experiencing a mental health crisis, handled a traffic collision, and conducted an OWI investigation. These are all situations I regularly encounter in my work at home. One notable difference, however, is that German officers almost always work in two-person units.

During the program, the other American officers and I were given the opportunity to observe demonstrations by mounted (horse) units, K-9 teams, the Spezialeinsatzkommando (SEK, similar to SWAT), riot police, crime scene units, military police, and the police academy. I found the process of becoming a police officer in Germany particularly interesting. In Wisconsin, officers typically complete an associate or bachelor's degree, apply to an agency, attend a police academy, and then complete field training. In Germany, candidates are hired first and then complete a structured four-year program that includes academy instruction and field training, culminating in a bachelor's degree.

Beyond law enforcement, the STAR program also emphasizes cultural exchange. During the trip, I was able to visit not only Lower Saxony but also Bavaria, Germany's largest state, and the nearly 900-year-old city of Munich. While there, I also met several past German participants who had previously traveled to Eau Claire. Overall, the experience was extremely rewarding, and I look forward to returning the hospitality by hosting future STAR participants from Germany and Spain here in Eau Claire.



## MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF HOMELESSNESS



Police departments frequently serve as one of the first points of contact when issues involving homeless individuals arise. Our officers routinely respond to calls related to welfare concerns, trespassing complaints, disorderly conduct, and safety issues in public spaces. In 2025, Officers responded to 2,592 calls for service involving unhoused individuals. North District officers alone responded to approximately half of these incidents.

Officers continually balance the rights of individuals experiencing homelessness with the needs and expectations of our community. Our emergency responders navigate uncapped drug needles, human feces, urine, and garbage. These environments can present dangers both to those living within them, the surrounding community, and the first responders themselves.

However, we know the issue of homelessness extends far beyond the scope of policing, as policing tools alone are not best suited to address the root causes of homelessness. Addressing homelessness in any city requires a thoughtful, coordinated approach.

It is an issue that no single department or organization can effectively resolve on its own, and as such, the Eau Claire Police Department has actively engaged in a more holistic approach involving and recruiting many government entities and private community partners to address the issue from a more diverse perspective. One of the ways we have done this is through a weekly collaborative clean-up effort. Every Monday, we visit and address issues in chronically problematic areas with other City Departments, representatives from the Department of Human Services, and local homeless service providers. We address the immediate safety concerns, offer services to the unhoused, engage in long-term problem-solving, and clean the area so spaces are accessible and safe to all utilizers.

Using this more collaborative approach, the City of Eau Claire is addressing issues from a variety of perspectives that ensure a balance combining outreach, prevention, and appropriate enforcement when necessary. Law enforcement can help maintain public safety and respond to immediate concerns, while service providers address short-term and long-term needs. Collaborative approaches allow each entity to focus on the role they are best equipped to fulfill, addressing and balancing the humanitarian needs of an individual and our community's needs as a whole. While there is certainly more work to be done, the collaboration that has taken place over the past year has been a step forward and demonstrates that we are moving in the right direction.

# FIVE-EAU PODCAST

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Toward the end of 2025, personnel in the Professional Standards Bureau crafted a studio and launched a new podcast dedicated to bringing the community of Eau Claire deeper, long-form conversations about policing and public safety.

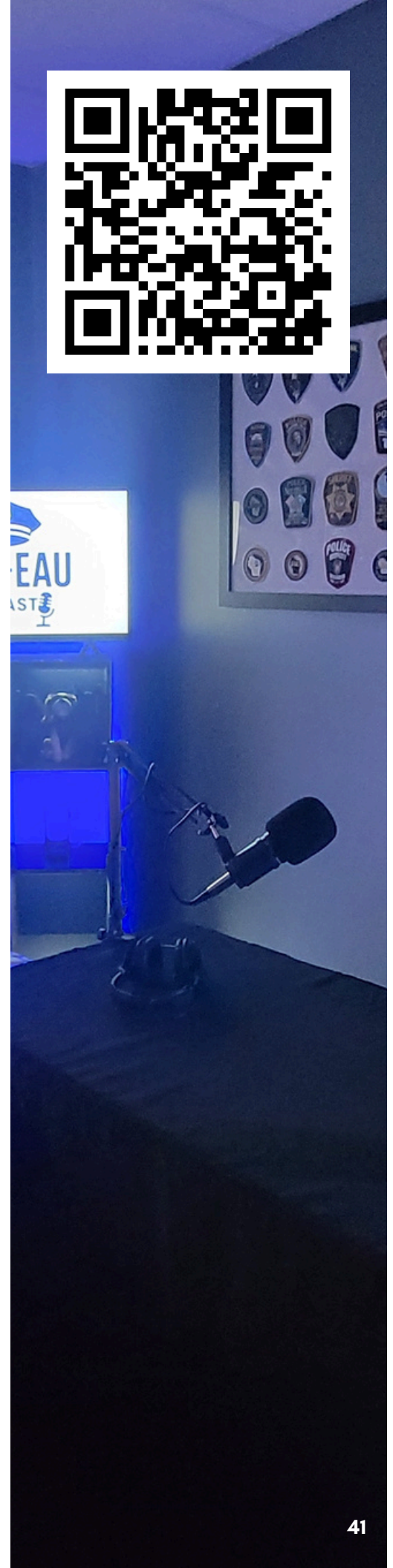
The initiative was created to provide residents with a transparent, behind-the-scenes look at the work of the Eau Claire Police Department and the many topics that shape modern law enforcement.

Hosted by Media & Communications Specialist Shannon Hoyt and Public Information Officer Ben Hundt, the podcast explores a wide range of subjects, from crime prevention strategies and community safety initiatives to policing innovation, officer training, and local events impacting the community.

Through in-depth conversations with officers, staff, and community partners, listeners gain insight into how ECPD approaches challenges, builds trust, and works to keep Eau Claire safe.

The podcast also highlights the people behind the badge, offering stories, perspectives, and practical information that help residents better understand the role of policing in their community.

The podcast is available on YouTube and Spotify.



# JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

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The Junior Police Academy (JPA) made its debut in 2016. Since then, we have hosted 18 sessions and approximately 500 participants.

The JPA is a week-long course designed for area youth ages 12 to 17. This program allows officers and students to interact in a comfortable setting, strengthening our connections with children in Eau Claire. In the process, students learn about the role police officers play in our community, as well as develop an understanding of law enforcement.

In 2026, the JPA will be hosting an advanced session for high school students interested in a more in-depth experience. This session will feature more hands-on demonstrations and scenario-based training, giving students a better understanding of what a career in law enforcement might be like.

*ECPD would like to extend a special thank you to our generous community members and sponsors for supporting the program and its mission.*



**FUN FACT:** In 2024, Officer Thomas Freitag became the first JPA graduate to be hired as a full-time ECPD officer.

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An aerial photograph of a community event, possibly a car show or a public safety demonstration. Several police vehicles are parked on a paved area, with their doors open. People, including children and adults, are gathered around the vehicles. The scene is set outdoors with green grass and trees in the background. The text "2025 HIGHLIGHTS" is overlaid in the center of the image.

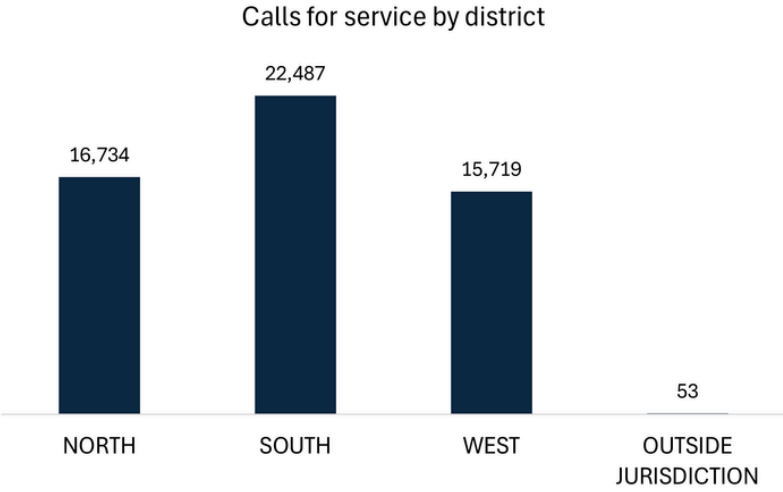
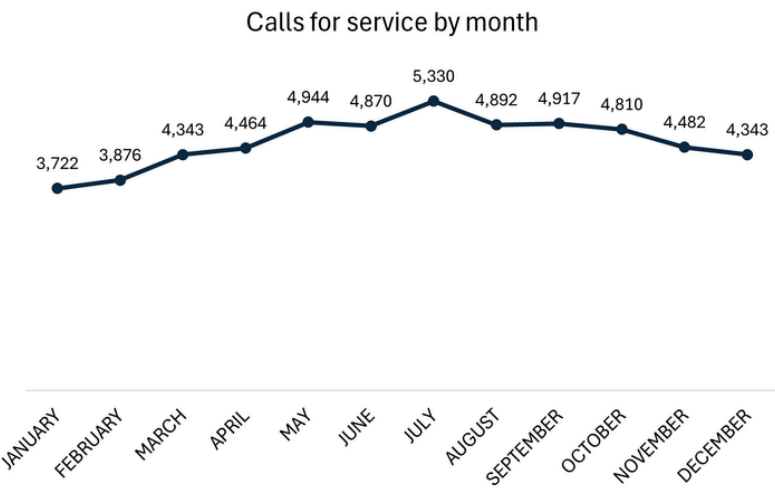
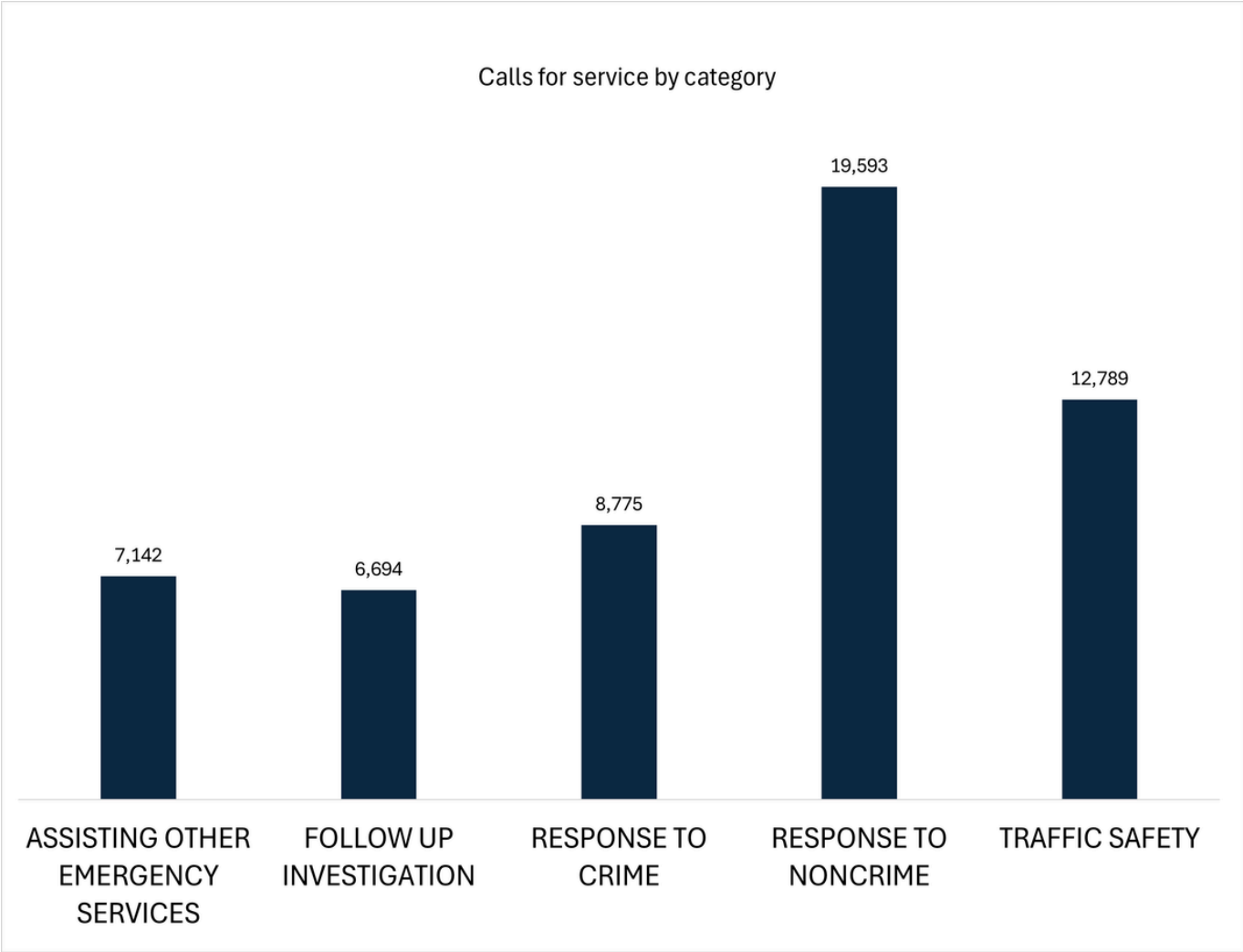
# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS







# 2025 DEMANDS FOR SERVICE



2025 DEMANDS FOR SERVICE:  
54,993

# GROUP A OFFENSES

Crimes Against Person, Property, and Society

GROUP A	Offenses			Adult Arrests			Total Arrests		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>1067</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>563</b>
Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	2
Manslaughter by Negligence	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Sex Offenses	76	79	88	8	22	17	14	25	22
Sex Offenses - Nonforcible	6	4	10	2	0	4	2	0	4
Assault Offenses	874	975	962	380	404	431	482	523	530
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	4	3	2	5	4	2	5	4
Human Trafficking	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>	<b>2039</b>	<b>1957</b>	<b>1775</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>512</b>
Robbery	8	7	9	4	6	7	4	8	8
Burglary	102	188	107	23	48	35	24	50	39
Theft/Larceny	1243	1182	1136	255	263	333	341	309	368
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	72	58	18	24	16	23	31	23
Stolen Property Offenses	6	4	0	5	1	1	6	1	1
Arson	7	3	5	6	1	1	8	1	2
Counterfeiting/Forgery	71	42	43	12	17	7	12	17	9
Fraud Offenses	425	382	339	46	44	38	49	48	40
Embezzlement	17	13	10	7	8	8	7	10	10
Extortion/Blackmail	22	9	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Destruction/Vandalism	48	55	44	3	5	9	5	14	12
<b>CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>	<b>1216</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>1538</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>811</b>
Weapon Law Violations	191	165	217	31	36	56	34	42	58
Prostitution Offenses	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	959	904	1226	397	428	687	444	468	720
Gambling Offenses	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pornography	12	20	22	7	2	8	9	4	8
Animal Cruelty	53	61	70	11	26	25	11	26	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4215</b>	<b>4170</b>	<b>4380</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>1340</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>1480</b>	<b>1582</b>	<b>1886</b>

# GROUP B OFFENSES

Arrest Data

GROUP B	Adult Arrests			Total Arrests		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Bad Checks	1	1	0	1	1	0
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	83	608	266	91	616	280
Disorderly Conduct	437	436	413	538	536	478
Driving Under the Influence	172	167	159	173	168	162
Family Offenses Nonviolent	16	11	12	16	11	12
Liquor Law Violation	192	146	137	213	192	157
Peeping Tom	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trespass of Real Property	91	103	70	100	108	70
All Other Offenses	542	607	669	618	660	720
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>2079</b>	<b>1726</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>1879</b>

## WORK WITH US

Are you looking for a rewarding career where you can truly make a difference? Eau Claire Police Department prides itself on being on the cutting edge of where law enforcement should be. With excellent benefits, 4-day work weeks, and advancement opportunities, ECPD is the perfect place to grow your career!

Scan the QR code below to learn more.



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Non-emergency - 715-839-4972

Administration - 715-839-4975

Records - 715-839-4982

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