

**Willmar Police
Department
2011
Annual Report**



Willmar Police Department 2011 Annual Report

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WILLMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT

CORE VALUES

Integrity

Service

Professionalism

Respect

Trust

VISION STATEMENT

The goal of the Willmar Police Department is to provide a safer community through a partnership with its citizens.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Willmar Police Department is dedicated to provide fair and impartial police services to all persons through education and enforcement.

POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS



Lowell Fostervold, Secretary
Lourdez Schwab, Vice President
Dennis Anfinson, President

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WILLMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

(As of December 31, 2011)

Chief of Police	David J. Wyffels
Captain.....	James E. Felt
Sergeant.....	Julie A. Asmus
Sergeant.....	Vincent K. King
Sergeant.....	Michael J. Anderson
Sergeant.....	Daniel R. Erickson
Sergeant.....	Michael C. Markkanen
Sergeant.....	Michael J. Jahnke
Police Officer (Specialist)	Marilee K. Dorn
Police Officer (Specialist)	Anthony J. LaPatka
Police Officer (Specialist)	Delmin C. Wagner
Police Officer	Robert P. Dobransky, Jr.
Police Officer (Specialist)	Gene A. Schneider
Police Officer.....	Frank O. Hanson
Police Officer (Specialist)	Kristian M. Kolstad
Police Officer (Specialist)	Chad L. Nelson
Police Officer.....	Craig A. Lange
Police Officer	Chad W. Oakleaf
Police Officer	Jared J. Wosmek
Police Officer	Jason E. Evans
Police Officer (Specialist)	Scott M. Erickson
Police Officer	Zachary N. Herzog
Police Officer	Dustin M. Van der Hagen
Police Officer	James A. Venenga
Police Officer (Specialist).....	Bridget A. Coit
Police Officer (Specialist)	Ross S. Livingood
Police Officer	Michael J. Holme
Police Officer	Samuel M. Neubauer
Police Officer	Joshua M. Helgeson
Police Officer	Christopher T. Flatten
Police Officer	Jason M. Hay
Administrative Assistant.....	Susan A. Edwards
Secretary	Linda K. Wittman
Secretary	Kimberly M. Becker-Stenglein
Secretary	Katherine E. Laughlin
Community Service Officer	Samantha A. Hinnenkamp
Community Service Officer	Columba E. Nwosu
Community Service Officer	Matthew B. Peters
Community Service Officer	Aaron M. Valiant

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EMPLOYEE & PROGRAM CHANGES

Detective Timothy Manuel retired January 17, 2011, working over 30 years with the Willmar Police Department. After a long battle with cancer, Detective Manuel passed away March 20, 2011.

Officer Mike Holme became a sniper for the Police Department on February 24, 2011.

Officer Sam Neubauer became a defensive tactics instructor on March 21, 2011.

Officer Mike Holme and Officer Jason Hay received a Medal of Honor from the MN Chiefs of Police Association on April 13, 2011.

Sergeant Jim Felt received the Minnesota American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the year in May, 2011.

Matt Peters and Matt Ledeboer completed the CSO/Apprentice Program through Ridgewater College in May, but continued to work on weekends for the Police Department while they completed the Law Enforcement Skills Program in Alexandria.

Summer part-time employees for the Bicycle Patrol were Andrew Halbritter and Ross Swartz.

Sergeant James Felt was promoted to Captain on June 12, 2011. Jim has been with the Willmar Police Department since July 30, 1990.

Officer Michael Jahnke was promoted to Sergeant on June 12, 2011. Mike has been with the department since January 13, 1994.

Officer Christian Berg resigned to take a position with the Owatonna Police Department on July 8, 2011.

Officer Scott Erickson was assigned to the patrol unit from the Gang Enforcement Team on September 4, 2011, due to a shortage of officers.

Aaron Valiant began the CSO/Apprentice Program through Ridgewater College on October 17, 2011.

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WILLMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

YEAR	POPULATION	SWORN OFFICERS	OFFICERS ON PATROL
2011	19,600	31	20
2010	19,610	33	20
2009	19,130	33	20
2008	19,040	34	20
2007	18,305	33	20
2006	18,709	33	20
2005	18,659	31	20
2004	18,597	32	21
2003	18,512	32	21
2002	18,488	31	20
2001	18,351	32	21

The staffing number indicates the number of sworn officers who were employed on December 31st of the given year. The actual number of officers who were available for work might be higher or lower during the year, depending on the hire or retirement dates of officers throughout the year or officers who were unavailable for work due to extended injury or illness.

The number of officers on patrol is indicative of full-time sworn officers whose primary duties consist of patrol functions. Again, this figure is obtained on December 31st of the given year. In most years, the months of June, July and August are supplemented by three more patrol officers than the number indicated. These patrol officers are School Resources Officers who are otherwise assigned to work in the schools from September through May.

In addition to the number of sworn officers shown above, the Willmar Police Department had 4 full-time civilian staff (1 administrative assistant and 3 secretaries) and 6 part-time staff (4 Community Service Officers and 2 summer bike patrol).



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PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the department, and consists of (4) Patrol Sergeants and (16) uniformed patrol officers.

The Patrol Division generally works in four teams led by a sergeant. Patrol officers normally work 12-hour shifts, with overlap shifts targeted towards coverage for the days and time of highest activity.

This division is responsible for responding to the majority of the public generated calls for service, initial crime scene processing/investigation, and traffic enforcement. Other responsibilities include warrant service, crime prevention, community education, ride-along program, parking enforcement (on street), and COPPS meetings.

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Willmar Police Department Detective Division consists of a Detective Sergeant, two detectives, one gang enforcement officer, and one narcotics officer assigned to the CEE-VI Narcotics Task Force.

The Detective Sergeant supervises the Detective Division. The Detective Sergeant and both detectives share in the everyday investigation of criminal cases. In addition, each detective is assigned specific areas of responsibility.



Back Row: Kris Kolstad, Vince King, Delmin Wagner
Front Row: Bridget Coit-Johnson, Chad Nelson

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Detective responsibilities include review and investigation of criminal cases, child abuse vulnerable adult cases from Family Services, tracking predatory sex offenders, investigation of liquor license applications and renewals, conducting liquor compliance checks, conducting background investigations of police candidates, processing forfeitures, and assisting other agencies in conducting internal affairs investigations.

The following chart is a 5-year comparison of general investigation activity.

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Criminal Cases Reviewed	1,300	1,200	1,300	480	465
Family Service Reports Reviewed	467	424	399	383	349
Predatory Offenders Tracked	29	32	30	28	26
Liquor License Applications	34	51	38	39	35
Alcohol Compliance Checks	38	39	43	42	22

JUVENILE DIVISION

The Willmar Police Department Juvenile Division consists of a Juvenile Sergeant, three School Resource officers (SRO's), one Crime Prevention/Community Policing Coordinator, four Community Resource officers (CSO's), and two bike patrol officers.

The Juvenile Sergeant supervises the Juvenile Division. Some of the activities coordinated out of the Juvenile Division include: school liaison, community notification of sex offenders, community education and prevention initiatives, special events, and other department programs.

The CSO program consists of four civilian Law Enforcement college students and operates on a year-round basis. The bike patrol consists of two college students and operates only during the summer months.



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SUPPORT SERVICES

The Willmar Police Department has a long history of established departmental support services. Support services are different compared to department programs.

Department services fill an underlying need within the department itself, whereas department programs are normally created to accomplish certain outcomes or goals involving the police within the community itself.

The Willmar Police Department Marksmen Unit (previously referred to as the Sniper Unit) was established in 1990. The Special Weapons And Tactics team (SWAT) was established in 1994. Both units were established to deal with high risk incidents where specialized training and equipment are utilized. Some specific high risk situations may include dangerous search warrants, hostage situations, barricaded suspects, suicidal individuals with weapons, and special protection details.

SWAT UNIT

The Willmar Police Department SWAT team is composed of an entry team unit consisting of ten officers. Additional officers in the department are assigned to crisis negotiations and chemical agent delivery groups. These teams operate under the command of the Chief of Police, the Police Captain, and two SWAT team leaders.

All entry team members have completed a minimum of a basic tactical class through the Special Operations Training Association, Minnesota National Guard Counter-Drug Program and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Members receive training in techniques such as emergency rescue, active shooters, forcible entry, and room entry/searches. Specialized equipment may include tactical weapons, lock disruption devices, controlled explosive devices (aka noise/flash diversion devices) and chemical munitions.



In 2011, the Willmar Police Department SWAT team trained jointly with the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office SWAT team, the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's STAT Medic team, the West Central SWAT team, the Douglas County SWAT team, and received training from an FBI SWAT instructor.

In 2011, Capt. James Felt, Sgt. Vince King, Sgt. Dan Erickson, and Officer Gene Schneider retired from the Willmar Police Department SWAT team. All four officers were charter members of the original Willmar Police Department SWAT team. Those four members were replaced through the assignment of Officer James Venenga, Officer Jason Evans, Officer Josh Helgeson, and Officer Dustin Van der Hagen to the unit.

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MARKSMEN UNIT

The Willmar Police Department Marksmen Unit is composed of four officers.

Marksmen work in pairs and can be utilized for a variety of situations, such as:

- Barricaded suspect(s)
- Barricaded suspect(s) with hostage(s)
- Active shooter(s)
- Sniper initiated Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team entry
- Narcotics type SWAT entry with known and/or unknown armed suspects
- Intelligence gathering through superior optics and/or field craft
- Protection for SWAT approach, entry, and/or retreat

Officers Lange, Dobransky and Oakleaf have attended the Minnesota National Guard Counter Sniper Precision Marksmanship School. Officer Mike Holme was sent to the Basic Sniper School, conducted by the Minneapolis Police Department SWAT team at Fort Ripley.

Additional training consists of, but is not limited to, intelligence gathering, field craft, tracking, ballistics, precision shooting, stalking, stealth, camouflage, and use of optics. The snipers are required to submit monthly qualifications while firing from varying distances, elevations and positions.

In 2011, Officer Mike Holme was assigned as a Marksman because of a vacancy created when Officer Dustin Van der Hagen transitioned to the Entry Team.



The Willmar Police Department Sniper Unit responded to two high risk incidents requiring SWAT deployment in 2011. During these incidents, the Sniper teams were utilized on exterior perimeters for containment and to provide cover for the SWAT Entry Team approach.

During 2011, the Willmar Police Department Sniper Unit teams participated in two joint training sessions with the Willmar SWAT Entry Team. Officer Lange instructed two additional Sniper Unit trainings consisting of classroom, field exercises, and shooting exercises.

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CANINE UNIT

Officer Craig Lange and “Cato” began working together as the canine unit on December 1, 2002.

As a team, Officer Lange and Cato perform regular patrol officer duties, along with assisting other officers and agencies with narcotics searches, evidence searches, and tracking fugitives or lost persons.

Cato is a German shepherd certified as a narcotics detection dog by the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA).

Of special recognition, in 2011, after other officers had searched for a suicidal person who seriously injured himself, Officer Lange and Cato successfully tracked and located the person, preventing imminent death.

The chart below shows a 3-year comparison of canine activity, along with the overall activity since Cato began service in December, 2002.



Year	2011	2010	2009	Career Stats
Canine Deployments				
Job Related	31	32	35	555
Training	3	5	9	430
Demonstrations	1	1	1	20
Total Deployments	35	38	45	1005
# of Agency Assists	5	6	10	125
# of Drugs Seizures	14	12	8	124
Est. Street Value	\$1,652	\$2,102	\$3,095	\$42,179
# of Property Seizures	17	4	1	161
Est. Value of Property Seizures	\$12,697	\$12,550	\$2,000	\$166,462

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WPD STATISTICS

Law enforcement is a complex operation due to a multitude of factors, some of which include: time needed to reach a destination due to either the nature of or the size of the geographical area served; call type; crime type; the number of available officers; the number of population served, which can fluctuate depending on the time of day, along with the cultural and industrial makeup of the city.

To properly gauge the safety of your community or the activity of your police department when comparing to other communities, it is imperative you understand how each factor might influence the statistics provided, while realizing that no two communities are exactly the same as it relates to geographical size and area, population, cultural influences, necessary expenditures, revenue resources, etc.

As an example, calls for service are not necessarily representative of how much crime occurs within Willmar. The Willmar Police can and do respond to numerous calls for service where a crime has not necessarily been committed.

Accident investigations, funeral assists, stalled vehicles, wild animal complaints, lost and found property, missing person complaints, search and rescue incidents, issuing permits, special events, community education, and a host of other types of activities all are examples of this.

Also, a low number of calls for service would not necessarily represent the police having little work to do because although each incident counts as one call for service, depending on the type of call (example a homicide vs. a stalled vehicle), the amount of police resources, and time needed to handle the call, can and does vary tremendously.

A community could also have a police department that is extremely busy, as indicated by a high number of calls for service, but in actuality have a very low crime rate. An example of this might be a very proactive police department engaged in a variety of community awareness and educational programs which in turn leads to lower crime levels.

Therefore, to properly analyze the numbers provided, each section contains a detailed description as to what the actual numbers shown represent.

STATE OF MINNESOTA – UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING (UCR)

UCR is a method of comparing “apples to apples” on crime statistics across all law enforcement agencies in the United States. When agencies report offense data to a state or the national UCR Program, they must first appropriately classify offenses known to police into the Part I or II standard offense categories as defined by the Program. This practice ensures that offenses with different titles under state and local law are considered and appropriately recorded in UCR.

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MINNESOTA BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION (BCA) - CRIME ANALYSIS

In 1935, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) was given the responsibility to collect activity information from the law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Minnesota. Biennially, reports were completed as required by State Statute. In 1972, reports were printed annually.

Statistics shown below were gathered and provided by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). The numbers come from the published State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety – 2011 Uniform Crime Report (UCR), along with other crime reports received from the Minnesota BCA.

Although numerous different offenses could have occurred within a single incident, the BCA only records the most serious offense for any one single given incident. The statistics below are representative only of the single most serious offense recorded in any given incident.

These UCR and BCA statistics are beneficial if trying to determine how many specific single “crime incidents” occurred within the City of Willmar. The number shown indicates the most serious crime in each incident, but they do not necessarily reflect the total number of crimes that were committed. To be considered separate incidents, there must be a separation of time and place between the criminal offenses that have occurred.

MINNESOTA BCA – PART I & PART II CRIMES

Crimes are grouped and indexed according to the seriousness of the offense. Part I crimes are more serious in nature than Part II crimes. The following chart shows a 10-year Part I vs. Part II crime comparison for the City of Willmar as reported by the Minnesota BCA.

YEAR	PART I	PART II	TOTAL
2011	540	843	1,383
2010	639	1,071	1,710
2009	772	1,293	2,065
2008	733	1,272	2,005
2007	736	1,159	1,895
2006	825	1,368	2,199
2005	973	1,098	2,071
2004	861	1,073	1,934
2003	829	1,103	1,932
2002	867	1,105	1,972

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The following chart is a breakdown of the Part I and Part II indexed offense categories as listed under the UCR criteria. This depicts a 5-year indexed crime comparison for the City of Willmar as reported by the Minnesota BCA.

Incidents by Type	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
PART I CRIMES					
Murder	0	0	0	1	0
Rape	18	14	19	26	35
Robbery	1	2	4	7	8
Aggravated Assault	28	44	32	33	15
Burglary	51	54	66	78	90
Theft	416	502	629	570	552
Motor Vehicle Theft	22	20	21	19	33
Arson	4	3	1	3	3
PART II CRIMES					
Other Assault	132	160	135	128	158
Forgery / Counterfeiting	22	32	29	58	44
Fraud	47	109	130	96	92
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property (Buying, receiving , possessing)	5	5	6	7	9
Vandalism	168	259	348	414	246
Weapons	3	5	8	4	8
Prostitution	0	0	0	1	1
Other Sex Offenses	28	22	27	29	26
Narcotics	62	85	72	81	82
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0
Offense Against Family & Children	8	6	11	4	3
Driving Under the Influence	91	81	123	125	137
Liquor Laws	81	87	85	98	97
Disorderly Conduct	31	47	48	37	57
Vagrancy	0	0	0	0	1
Other Offenses (Excluding Traffic)	165	173	271	191	198
TOTALS	1,383	1,710	2,065	2,005	1,895

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MINNESOTA BCA – TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST

It is important to note that the clearance rate shown is only related to the number of crimes reported for the given year. The actual overall clearance rate will always be higher because some crimes committed in one calendar year may not be solved until the following year or even years later.

The statewide average of offense percentage clearance rate is for all reporting Minnesota law enforcement agencies. The following is a 10-year crime clearance rate comparison for the City of Willmar as reported by the Minnesota BCA.

YEAR	PART I CRIMES		PART II CRIMES		OVERALL % for I & II
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	
2011 – Statewide Avg.		26%	N/A	66%	50%
2011 - Willmar	204	38%	605	72%	58%
2010	235	37%	693	65%	54%
2009	314	41%	891	69%	58%
2008	292	40%	894	70%	59%
2007	235	32%	801	59%	55%
2006	255	31%	889	65%	52%
2005	298	31%	733	67%	50%
2004	290	34%	695	65%	51%
2003	333	40%	807	71%	58%
2002	353	41%	859	78%	62%

MN BCA - ARREST INFORMATION

The chart below indicates the number of arrests made in Willmar. It is important to note that there could be multiple arrests for just one crime or multiple crimes resolved with just one arrest. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that the number of arrests will match the number of crimes committed or vice versa. The following chart is a 10-year history of arrest numbers for the City of Willmar as reported by the Minnesota BCA.

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YEAR	ADULTS	JUVENILES	TOTAL ARRESTS
2011	709	189	898
2010	782	223	1,005
2009	996	245	1,241
2008	1,021	328	1,349
2007	884	268	1,152
2006	989	397	1,386
2005	887	332	1,219
2004	913	352	1,265
2003	1,054	380	1,434
2002	1,036	511	1,547

MINNESOTA BCA – CRIME RATE PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

This number indicates the crime rate per 100,000 residents which is useful when comparing the crime rate in Willmar against other communities. Crime rates are computed by dividing the number of Index Crimes (Part I & II crimes) by the population and then multiplying by 100,000.

The following chart is a 10-year crime rate comparison for the City of Willmar as reported by the Minnesota BCA.

Crime Rate per 100,000 Residents

Year	Willmar, MN	State of Minnesota (Average)
2011	7746	6979
2010	8,720	7206
2009	11,610	7547
2008	11,131	8132
2007	10,352	8662
2006	11,742	9020
2005	10,831	8941
2004	10,585	9024
2003	10,521	9494
2002	10,600	9854

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LOCAL - RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS)

Willmar Police records are stored in a Records Management System (RMS) and managed by the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office Records Unit. A Records Management System is an integral part of any law enforcement agency.

On March 23, 2011, the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office implemented a new RMS, identified as LETG, which replaced the existing CODY RMS. The Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Records Unit is responsible for managing all Willmar Police reports and records which includes the storage, retrieval and archiving of all records relating to criminal activity and investigations. They also maintain responsibility for the records reporting requirements required by other agencies at the Federal, State and local levels.

The following 2011 RMS stats were obtained from both the CODY RMS (01/01/11 to 03/22/11) and the LETG RMS (03/23/11 – 12/31/11).

LOCAL RMS– CALLS FOR SERVICE (BY MONTH)

The chart below depicts a 3-year comparison broken down by the number of calls handled each month as recorded in the RMS database.

Month	2011	2010	2009
January	1,381	1,429	1,069
February	1,258	1,415	1,315
March	1,423	1,585	1,552
April	1,597	1,753	1,758
May	1,756	1,806	1,928
June	1,572	1,816	1,775
July	1,871	1,971	2,107
August	1,699	1,777	1,950
September	1,576	1,547	1,841
October	1,592	1,586	1,741
November	1,323	1,362	1,448
December	1,307	1,422	1,523
Totals:	18,354	19,469	20,574

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RMS - CALLS FOR SERVICE (By Category Type)

The chart below depicts a 3-year comparison broken down by the number of call types handled by the Willmar Police as recorded in the RMS database. Some of the categories listed will show remarkable differences when comparing 2009 or 2010 to 2011.

The reason for these differences is caused by the change in the Records Management System when on March 23, 2011, we switched from CODY to LETG. Certain category listings in CODY were not available in LETG and vice versa. However, it does not diminish or enhance the total calls for service the police actually responded to in any of these years; some call types are simply categorized differently.

Literal Description	2011	2010	2009
9-1-1 Hang-Up Call	90	79	115
Abandoned Vehicles & 48-Hour Parking	287	238	274
Accident Motor Vehicle – Property Damage	186	534	528
Accident Other Referred to State Patrol	2	4	7
Accident Packets Issued	26	84	72
Administrative Incidents	63	0	0
Administrative Offense	9	7	8
Agency Assist	564	116	103
Alarms	417	427	450
Alcohol Offense	213	38	0
All Other Public Complaints	905	1089	1145
Ambulance Call – Medical Emergency	30	26	43
Animal Calls	903	905	795
Assault	151	175	171
Assist in Locating	25	214	243
ATV/Snowmobile Complaints	9	16	17
Burglary in Progress	2	10	25
Burglary Report	81	62	67
Bus Stop Arm Violation	14	36	50
Check Cases	2	36	31
Check Welfare of Person	45	207	239
Child Custody Dispute	130	108	79
Civil	73	0	0
Consent Search	1	0	0
Crashes	626	24	32
Criminal Damage to Property	328	349	347
Criminal Sexual Conduct – 1st Degree	6	20	27
Curfew Violation	2	30	21
Disorderly Conduct	65	37	55
Dog Bites	3	24	28
Domestics	442	439	442

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Literal Description	2011	2010	2009
Doors / Windows Found Open	3	48	49
Doors Unlocked	5	21	16
Driving Complaints	65	423	465
Drug Violations	81	73	88
Drunkenness (Other than Detox)	24	112	143
Electric Home Monitoring Violation	9	31	5
Emergency Messages	1	8	8
Exterior Storage Violations	27	0	0
Family Service Reports	416	308	348
Fight Call	172	188	198
Financial Transaction Card Fraud	5	71	44
Fire Call Law Enforcement Response	59	50	38
Firearms Accident	1	0	0
Fireworks Complaint	1	48	50
Foot Pursuit Information	0	6	9
Forgery	11	21	21
Found Animals	43	255	214
Found Persons	0	18	17
Found Property	19	262	238
Fraud	173	91	83
Funeral Escorts	18	66	69
Gang Information	11	3	9
Gang Related Materials	0	51	155
Gun Permit	199	156	0
Harassment	485	592	542
Harassment Court Order / Hearing	1	3	1
Harassment Order Violation	8	25	28
Hit & Run Property Damage Accident	51	202	206
Identity Theft	11	64	82
Illness or Death Notices	3	2	2
Indecent Exposure	3	9	11
Information	64	68	64
Internet Crimes	0	2	4
Jail	57	0	0
Juvenile Violations	21	0	0
K-9 Assists	4	6	14
Kidnapping	1	0	2
Live Trap Issued	4	0	0
Lost & Found (Animals, Persons, Property)	591	156	174
Loud Parties / Neighborhood Disturbances	73	505	564
Medical Assist / Police	1	1	3
Mental Issues	85	117	54
Missing Persons	204	22	9
Motorist Assists	220	220	211

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Literal Description	2011	2010	2009
Motor Vehicle Accident – Other	13	40	62
Motor Vehicle Pursuits	0	2	6
Motor Vehicle Tampering	0	17	10
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	39	35
Neglect – Information	1	3	8
Neighborhood Disturbance	455	0	0
No Contact Order Violation	3	16	20
Occupational Accidents	2	0	0
Officer Safety Information	1	0	8
Order For Protection Violation	11	70	35
Parking Violations	63	238	250
Permit Denials	3	7	8
Permit to Acquire	55	156	127
Permit to Shoot Pests	2	40	35
Permit to Solicit	1	5	10
Personal Injury Accident	10	49	52
Persons to Crisis	3	24	19
Persons to Detox	7	64	48
Physical Abuse – Information	11	17	12
Police Information	4	0	0
Possess Child Pornography	1	1	1
Prisoner Release Notification	6	25	21
Prowler / Window Peeker	0	3	9
Public Assists	931	412	373
Public Works	5	0	0
Recovery (Stolen MV or Property)	23	26	20
Repossessed Vehicle	4	21	22
Request for Extra Patrol	15	117	131
Residence Checks	5	50	44
Return Locate	9	44	20
Ride-Along Program Participant	22	65	107
Robbery	1	0	5
Runaways	8	47	37
School Related Incidents	40	1	6
Search Warrant Execution	10	7	6
Sex Crimes	46	12	20
Sex Offender	1	1	7
Sexual Abuse – Information	2	8	8
Shoplifter	32	143	216
Snowbirds	60	115	37
SonShine Violations	17	3	25
Stalled Vehicles	56	146	164
State Hospital Walk-Away	3	1	2
Stolen Property/Possession	1	2	2

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Literal Description	2011	2010	2009
Sudden Death / Body Found	14	7	17
Suicidal Person	71	48	62
Suicide	6	0	1
Suicide Attempts	8	6	7
Suspicious (Person or Vehicle)	591	610	570
Theft	826	689	715
Tobacco Violation	2	7	6
Traffic Complaints	592	0	0
Traffic Stops	4,920	6,058	6959
Trespass	86	56	65
Vagrancy	3	0	10
Varda Alarm	0	1	1
Vulnerable Adult Information	9	39	33
Warrant Arrest	323	336	363
Warrant Transport	0	12	4
Water/Ice Rescue	1	0	1
Watercraft Complaints	0	1	1
Weapons Complaints	79	72	71
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE:	18,354	19,469	20,567

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic safety is an area of great public concern. Not only does the Willmar Police Department listen and respond to these concerns, we also attempt to be proactive by offering educational training that will reduce the likelihood of injury to motorists and pedestrians alike.

The Willmar Police department participates in many traffic safety programs, whether they are educational or enforcement based. The Willmar Police have a long history of participating in Safe & Sober, now known as Towards Zero Deaths (TZD), which is the umbrella that unites all of the Office of Traffic Safety enforcement program efforts.

In general, the focus given to specific problems starts with a public educational effort and eventually leads into enforcement action. Some of the focus areas that have caught the spotlight in recent years are DUI's, speeding, seatbelt use, child passenger restraint systems, cell phone use, and currently "distracted driving".

Two department officers are certified as Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians, which involves instructing on the safe transportation of babies and children in motor vehicles.

The department monitors crash rates and traffic patterns, along with specific driving complaints.

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LOCAL RMS – TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTION

These numbers reflect the action taken in regards to traffic violations (driver or passenger) observed during a traffic stop. It does not reflect the actual number of traffic stops made by officers, as in some cases, multiple persons may have received a traffic citation or warning during a single traffic stop.

The chart below depicts a 3-year comparison of the type of traffic enforcement action taken by the Willmar Police as recorded in the RMS database. On April 8, 2011, the City Council repealed the city ordinance relating to the issuance of administrative citations in its entirety due to a 2009 State legislative change on how administrative citations were to be handled.

Type of Contact	2011	2010	2009
Administrative Citations	0	0	179
Traffic Citations	1463	1,989	1748
Verbal Warnings	3,070	3,071	3916
Written Warnings	728	1,251	1837
Illegal Equipment Repairs	9	28	37
Total:	5,270	6,339	7,717



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LOCAL RMS - TRAFFIC CITATIONS (By Violation Type)

During the course of a year, the Willmar Police may easily enforce more than 100 different types of traffic violations. Enforcement action can vary from a verbal or written warning to a citation being issued.

The chart below depicts the top 20 types of traffic violations where a citation was issued.

Violation	2011	2010	2009
Careless or Reckless Driving (Statute 169.13)	8	9	17
Child Restraint Violation (Statute 169.685)	9	18	18
Driving After Cancellation (Statute 171.24 subd. 3)	15	16	19
Driving After Revocation (Statute 171.24 subd. 2)	113	120	127
Driving After Suspension (Statute 171.24 subd. 1)	102	107	109
DUI (1 st – 4 th Degree) (Statute 169A.24 – 169A.27)	96	89	132
Expired Registration (Statute 169.79 subd.1)	9	21	25
Fail to Yield Right of Way (Statute 169.20)	15	18	0
Leaving the Scene of an Accident (Statute 169.13)	13	20	26
Instruction Permit Violation (Statute 171.05)	38	53	40
No Insurance (Statute 169.797)	44	77	88
No Minnesota Driver's License (Statute 171.02)	100	132	137
No Proof of Insurance (Statute 169.791)	103	255	220
Open Bottle Law (Statute 69.35)	19	34	27
Possession of Marijuana in a Motor Vehicle (Statute 152.027)	17	29	19
School Bus Stop Arm Violation (Statute 169.444)	22	20	33
Seatbelt Violation (Statute 169.686)	190	288	100
Speed Related Violations (Statute 169.14)	331	354	195
Stop Sign Violation (Statute 169.30 (b))	19	48	46
Traffic Signal Violations (Statute 169.06)	18	19	13

YEARLY MILES PATROLLED

The following table is a 5-year comparison of the number of miles patrolled by the Willmar Police each year.

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Mileage	333,839	383,218	393,049	398,544	448,044

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PROPERTY SYSTEM REPORT

The following report is a compilation of records entered into the Willmar Police Department property system. This system holds three different categories of property normally submitted by Willmar Police officers. These three categories are:

Evidence – any property held as evidence relating to a crime.

Found Property – any property found by citizens and turned into the custody of the police.

Property Held for Safe Keeping – any property held for “safe-keeping” until the owner can make arrangements for its return.

The Willmar Police Department has two property technicians. These technicians spend an estimated 30 hours per week (combined) performing their duties. The technicians are responsible for the intake (storage) and removal (eventual return, destruction, or other outcome) of property brought into the system. The number of items handled fluctuates slightly by season and by current criminal activity. Summer months normally show a greater activity, mainly resulting from a greater number of bikes that are turned in as “found property”.

The chart below depicts a 5 year comparison as to the amount of property handled by the technicians in 2011:

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Items Received	1,647	15,77	1,580	1,926	1,584
Items Removed	4,047	853	1,366	830	1,586
# of Found Bikes	131	106	118	113	188

Bikes were counted under “items received”, but are also shown in the last column as a separate item of interest, as they are the most common piece of property handled within the property system.

Almost all bikes submitted to the property system are “found bikes”, meaning someone calls to report the bike as being abandoned. Less than 10% of the found bikes are claimed by the owner. The rest remain unclaimed and are sold at the annual spring city auction.

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FORFEITURE REPORT

Law determines who gets what amount of the proceeds from the sale of forfeitable property. Forfeitures initiated by the Willmar Police Department are divided in the following manner:

<u>Type of Forfeiture</u>	<u>Division of Proceeds</u>
Criminal Forfeitures	70% - City of Willmar 20% - Kandiyohi County Attorney's Office 10% - State of Minnesota
Alcohol Forfeitures	100% - City of Willmar

If the violation is prosecuted at a Federal level, the proceeds are divided in the following manner:

Criminal Forfeitures	80% - City of Willmar 20% - U.S. Attorney's Office
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The Willmar Police Department normally employs the use of an "Administrative" forfeiture rather than a "Judicial" forfeiture because the burden of proof is placed upon the defendant. Property eligible for forfeiture is described in Minnesota Statute 609.531 – 609.5318 as property that was used or intended to be used for the commission of a designated offense.

Although a wide variety of items may be forfeitable, the majority and most common items forfeited are vehicles and cash. When practical, the Willmar Police Department will acquire forfeited property for Department use.

The following table is a 5-year compilation of records relating to vehicles or cash, which was seized by the Willmar Police Department, as being eligible for forfeiture. There are at least 23 different criminal offenses that are considered when determining whether or not property may be forfeited. Most property seized as forfeitable property is obtained from drug or alcohol offenses. Alcohol related forfeitures only allow seizure of the vehicle used.

	Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Vehicle Seizures	Seized	19	24	27	25	35
	Forfeited	1	15	11	10	10
	Returned	11	9	16	15	25
	Pending	7	0	0	0	0
Cash Seizures	Seized	\$388.67	\$2,852.85	\$4,891.00	\$3,306.10	\$589.60
	Forfeited	\$388.67	\$2,852.85	\$4,891.00	\$3,306.10	\$589.60
	Returned	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Pending	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

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MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITY

FALSE ALARMS

The Willmar Police maintains approximately 500 business and residence files that indicate the presence of installed alarms. Locations with more than five false alarms in a given year are billed \$100.00 for each alarm after the 5th false alarm for police services. Alarm records are maintained by the police and billing is done by the City.

The following table is a 5-year comparison of the number of alarms the Willmar Police responded to and the amount of generated revenue billed each year.

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
# Of Alarm Calls	417	427	451	472	499
# of Different Locations Subject to Billing	10	10	8	12	16
Amount Billed	\$3,200.00	\$3,400.00	\$1,800.00	\$2,600.00	\$5,900.00

TOWS AND IMPOUNDMENT

Fees collected consist of towing charges, taxes, administration fees, and storage costs. The City of Willmar retains the revenue generated by administration and storage costs. The remainder is received by the contracted tow company for their towing services.

In 2010, changes in the justice system, which made many traffic laws simply a “payable offense”, caused a significant reduction in the number of vehicles which were previously towed and impounded. It was in that year that the Willmar Police began holding only one city auction (in May) each year because of the lower number of vehicles being held in the impound lot at the time of auction.

The following table is a 5-year comparison of the Willmar Police Department towing activity.

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
# of Vehicles Towed	257	281	354	469	566
Fees Collected	\$27,000	\$26,400	\$40,000	\$57,500	\$76,955
Revenue Retained	\$17,500	\$16,295	\$19,800	\$29,780	\$40,000
# of Towed Vehicles Sold at City Auction	59	47	109	118	148

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EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Minnesota law requires licensed police officers to attend at least 48 hours of Minnesota Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) approved courses in a three-year license period. POST mandates the amount of time officers are required to train to maintain proficiency skill levels relating to defensive tactics, firearms, driving, etc.

Aside from the MN POST mandated training requirements, officers must continually train in areas of law to maintain levels of proficiency as it relates to the yearly changes in legislative law and recent court rulings regarding law enforcement practices. They also must train to maintain certification in various fields relating to alcohol/drug enforcement, EMT/First Responder skills, OSHA related topics (HAZMAT and Bloodborne Pathogens), child seat safety certification, canine, etc. The hiring of new officers will influence the number of hours spent on training as well.

The following table is a 5-year comparison of the number of hours Willmar Police employees attended training.

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Training Hours	3,739	2,921	3,456	3,991	3,596



DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

CEE-VI DRUG & GANG TASK FORCE PROGRAM

In 1990, the Willmar Police Department began participation in a multi-county drug task force program known as CEE VI. The "CEE" stands for Cooperative Enforcement Effort, and the Roman numeral "VI" stands for the original six counties in the task force. There are currently five counties the CEE-VI Drug & Gang Task Force serves. They include: Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Meeker, Yellow Medicine and Swift.

The need for multi-jurisdictional enforcement efforts stems from the fact that drug trafficking does not recognize jurisdictional boundaries and to be effective, enforcement officers need to cross those boundaries as well. In 2006, the State of Minnesota began a secondary task force to focus on gang problems. The two problems (drugs and gangs) are closely intertwined. It was at that time that the name was changed to the CEE-VI Drug & Gang Task Force. While both task forces work closely together, they are separate from one another, with different funding sources and operating with different purposes and goals in mind.

The Willmar Police Department has had one full-time officer assigned to the CEE-VI Drug Task Force since 1990. This position is fully reimbursed back to the City of Willmar through grant money and funding sources within each of the six counties the Drug Task Force operates under.

The job of the drug task force is to investigate all facets of drug crimes. This includes, but is not limited to, undercover work, supervising informants, surveillance detail, writing and executing search warrants, investigating clandestine meth labs, proactive drug enforcement, and follow-up investigation on various leads.

In 2011, the CEE-VI Drug & Gang Task Force was responsible for felony arrests of 151 individuals. The task force seized and purchased over 36 pills of Adderall, 81 grams of cocaine, 104 pills of Hydrocodone, 29 grams of Khat, 17 pounds of marijuana, 1.5 pounds of methamphetamine, 29 pills of Oxycodone, 232 prescription pills, 10 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, and 2 pounds of synthetic marijuana.

In 2011, the task force area continued to see a large increase in the use and sales of diverted pharmaceuticals (prescription pain pills). The trend in diverted pharmaceuticals was also seen statewide.

In 2011, the task force was responsible for 64 arrests and 25 search warrants within the City of Willmar. The total asset seizures in Willmar consisted of \$19,062.00 cash, 4 vehicles and 7 guns.

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2011 - DRUGS SEIZED IN WILLMAR	2011- DRUGS PURCHASED IN WILLMAR
Alprazolam	Amphetamine
Amphetamine	Cocaine
Clonazepam	Hydrocodone
Cocaine	Marijuana
Codeine	Methamphetamine
Darvocet	Other Prescription Pills
Hydrocodone	Synthetic Marijuana
Khat	
Marijuana	
Methamphetamine	
Morphine	
Other Prescription Drugs	
Oxycodone	
Oxycontin	
Synthetic Marijuana	
Tylenol 3	

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Education is a key component used by the Willmar Police Department in its efforts to gain compliance of laws and ordinances, along with building a safer community. Education is provided in a wide variety of formats and ranges anywhere from media appearances, speaking at service clubs, community or group presentations, display booths and handouts of printed material.

While the Willmar Police Department strives to meet all requests to provide presentations, the volume of requests and staffing levels do not allow every request to be fulfilled. Public demand, available staffing, audience size, how often the topic was already presented, and the amount of advanced notice received, all determine which requests can be met.

The chart below depicts some of the areas of interest that were presented to the public in our education efforts. Some presentations are given multiple times throughout the year. Our audience range is from pre-school children to senior citizens. The Willmar Police also provided officer training to other Police Departments.

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Community Education / Presentations	
Alcohol Ignition Interlock	Home Visiting
Alcohol Server Education	Identity Theft
Calling for Help	Identity Theft and Business
Careers in Policing	Inattentive Driving
Child Passenger Safety	Internet Safety and Computer Crimes
Church Safety & Security	Open Mic Program at KWLM
Crime Prevention in your Business Plan	Personal Safety and Defense
Laws & Crimes Relating to Care Facilities	Planning for Emergencies
Driver Education Classes	Robbery Survival
Driving and License Laws	Scams & Fraud
Early Childhood - General Safety	Shoplifting Clinic
Energy Drinks and Current Drug Trends	Underage and Binge Drinking
Halloween Safety	Workplace Violence
Holiday Safety & Crime Prevention	WRAC 8 – Do You Know Series
Event Participation	
Community Connections	Fire Department Storytime
County Fair Booth	Home Depot Safety Day
Early Childhood @ Ridgewater	National Night Out
EMS Open House	Wal-Mart Safety Day

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING AND PROBLEM SOLVING (COPPS) PROGRAM

The COPP's Program planning stage first began in April, 1990. The program continued to develop throughout 1991 with training given to officers. The program officially started within the community in July, 1992.

The Willmar Police Department continues to operate under the philosophy of community policing, which uses a proactive approach to identifying and dealing with problems instead of simply responding to calls for service. Ongoing attention is paid to crime trends and quality of life issues which can be indicators of criminal activity or safety problems. Any topics related to public safety may be addressed.

Although originally individual COPPS meetings had been held in each of the city's four wards on a monthly basis, in August 2010, the format was changed whereby monthly meetings for each of the four wards were joined into one monthly meeting representing all wards. The change was made in response to waning public interest.

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In 2011, only eleven city-wide monthly meetings were held. Participation at all monthly city-wide meetings resulted in a total of 80 people attending the meetings (average of 7.2 persons per meeting).

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER / APPRENTICE PROGRAM

In 1999, the Willmar Police Department and Ridgewater College worked together to develop the Apprentice Program. The Willmar Police Department currently has four law enforcement students, who work part-time in the Community Service Officer/Apprentice Program.

The CSO/Apprentice primary duties are enforcing on-street parking and parking in the city lots in the downtown area. Other duties include animal control, vacation checks, administrative errands, providing assistance and information to the public, delivering vehicles for maintenance, organization of vehicles and bicycles at the city impound lot, and assisting with the city auctions.

CSOs are instrumental in the smooth operation of many special city-wide activities, helping with setup, traffic control and parking enforcement during Willmar Fest, SonShine, National Night Out, DARE graduation and numerous other parades and events.

The apprentice program also provides opportunities for CSOs to participate in department training events.



CSOs: Matt Peters, Samantha Hinnenkamp, Aaron Valiant, Sgt. Julie Asmus, Columba Nwosu

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CRIME PREVENTION / COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAM

In 1976, under the direction of Chief Lyle Goeddertz, Officer Carl Sorenson initiated the first crime prevention program. The program evolved over the years and as community policing regained a foothold in the mid 1980's, the program transitioned into the current Crime Prevention / Community Policing Coordinator position.

This person is accountable for a wide variety of crime prevention initiatives which involves public presentations to a variety of local businesses, educational facilities, senior care facilities, civic organizations, adults, parents and children.

Officer Dorn is currently assigned to the position and is certified as a Crime Prevention Practitioner by the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.

As part of this mission, Officer Dorn was involved with the following:

- Willmar Early Childhood Coalition
- Willmar Public Schools Child Guide Program Advisory Committee
- Kandiyohi County Heart Attack Survival / Defibrillator Coalition
- Kandiyohi County Safe Communities Coalition
- Kandiyohi County Parents Forever Program Advisory Board
- Willmar Area Crime Stoppers
- TZD (Towards Zero Deaths) – Safe and Sober grant
- National Night Out
- Media presentations through WRAC (a local-access television station) in producing a monthly public safety show titled, "Willmar 9-1-1". Twelve half-hour shows were recorded, covering a variety of public safety topics.



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GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM (GET) PROGRAM

In October, 1997, the Willmar Police Department started a program known as Gang Enforcement Team, (GET). This program involved creating a specialized unit designed to track, identify, document and apprehend criminal gang members and other persons involved in criminal activity. Locally, the GET program was first established under grant funding.

GET duties include documenting gang activity, identifying gang members and associates, creating and maintaining gang files, focusing attention on criminal gang behavior, educating the public on gang awareness, fugitive apprehension, and predatory offender registration checks. It also includes some case investigations, along with close collaboration with the CEE-VI Drug Task Force.

In 2011, due to a shortage in officers, there were some changes that affected the Gang Enforcement Team. Officer Scott Erickson was reassigned to the patrol unit while Officer Del Wagner continued to work alone as a GET officer, along with helping out the detective unit.

GET is a component of the Detective Division and falls under the supervision of the Detective Sergeant.



LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

In 1995, the Willmar Police Department and the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office started a joint "chaplaincy" program. The intent was to use volunteer chaplains to assist officers when delivering death messages to families. The spiritual assistance and comfort the chaplains provided in these calls allowed officers to return to duty, while leaving the families in the care of chaplains.

The program has expanded to a level where the chaplains not only continue to provide death notification assistance, but they provide spiritual assistance to all law enforcement employees who are experiencing emotional crises, whether in their personal or professional lives.

Our Chaplain Program currently consists of three chaplains: Pastor H. Paul McCullough, Pastor Richard "Woody" Glanzer, and Father Brian Mandel. These three chaplains serve the entire Law Enforcement Center, which includes the Willmar Police Department, the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office, the Kandiyohi County Jail, and the Dispatch Center. Not only do they serve the officers, but also the officers' families, and inmates.

During 2011, the chaplains rode with officers, helped with 15 death notifications, assisted with prisoner counseling, along with many other events. They interact with and build a relationship of trust and friendship with the employees. This is all done on a volunteer basis.

The chaplains give of their time to help and support our departments and the community. Pastor Paul also hands out a weekly message which discusses various topics, such as relationships, character and integrity. We wish to thank all three chaplains for their prayers and support.



Pastor Woody Glanzer Pastor Paul McCullough Father Brian Mandel

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PEOPLE ON WATCH! (POW!) PROGRAM

In 1997, the People On Watch! Program was started with more than 100 persons on the membership roster. POW! Members are trained to recognize and report suspicious or dangerous situations; they are not expected to intervene beyond being good witnesses.

A POW! Volunteer receives 16 hours of initial training in a citizen police-academy setting taught by Willmar Police Department officers. Those who choose to join POW! must undergo a background check and be at least 19 years old. Academy graduates gain knowledge in areas of basic constitutional and criminal law and procedures, observation and reporting skills, DWI detection, drug trafficking familiarization, bystander first aid, and self-defense. Members attend bi-monthly training meetings at the Law Enforcement Center.

While some POW! Volunteers report suspicious, dangerous, or emergency situations, others volunteer to work as receptionists at the front desk at the Police Department.



POW! members also assist with special events such as the Willmar Fest Downtown Block Party, Sonshine, Grande Day Parade and the Holiday Parade in November. Their contribution to the department and their community is truly appreciated.

By 2011, the POW! membership had decreased to 20 citizen volunteer members, but continues to be beneficial to the Willmar Police Department. Officer Dorn maintains the responsibility for the promotion, training of new volunteers and coordinating the work effort volunteers for the Willmar People On Watch! Program.

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RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

The Ride-Along Program within the Willmar Police Department is an opportunity for the general public to observe police officers at work. It is a good tool for police/community relations, giving citizens a very practical insight into police work and could assist somebody in making a career choice.

A Waiver of Liability form must be signed, and if the person is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian signature is required. Individuals are allowed to ride twice within a calendar year. Officers are not required to take ride-along participants but are encouraged to do so as an educational tool for the public.

The chart below depicts a 5-year comparison of people who participated in the ride-along program, along with the number of officers available to assist.

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
# Of Participants	59	110	107	136	109
# Of Available Officers	14	22	19	24	20

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM

In 1994, the Willmar Police Department began a collaborative partnership with the Willmar School District by assigning a designated officer to specifically work within the High School on a full-time basis throughout the school year. The school recognized the value of having officers within the school system and an additional position was added in 1996. In 2008, the school again requested additional officer resources, resulting in a third officer being assigned to the school system on a full-time basis throughout the school year.



Officer Ross Livingood, Officer Gene Schneider
Officer Tony LaPatka, Sgt. Julie Asmus

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School Resource Officers (SROs) have a variety of job responsibilities which include investigating thefts, assaults, criminal damage to property reports, assisting with conflict resolution, as well as being a resource for students, staff and parents.

Approximately 175 video cameras are currently in place in the Willmar School District. SRO's oversee the purchase of new cameras, consult with building principals to determine placement of cameras, monitor and repair minor problems, and coordinate major repairs with camera companies.

During the three months of the summer, the School Resource officers are assigned back to work regular uniform patrol. In 2011, the school contract resulted in reimbursement to the City of Willmar for approximately 50.7% of the total for the three officers' annual wages.

In 2011, Officer Gene Schneider was assigned to the Senior High School; Officer Anthony LaPatka was at the Middle School; and Officer Ross Livingood was responsible for covering the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) and also handled calls for service at Roosevelt and Kennedy Elementary Schools.

School Resource officers are also involved in providing some forms of education. From January through May, Officers LaPatka and Livingood were involved in teaching DARE at the elementary schools. Officer Schneider taught alcohol awareness to all 9th grade health classes at the Senior High School.

SHOP WITH A COP PROGRAM

A special event known as the "Shop With A Cop" program occurred in December. Wal-Mart donates gift cards and law enforcement officers donate their time to help children shop for Christmas presents. This is always a highlight of the holiday season for both the officers and the children who are selected to participate.



SUMMER BICYCLE PROGRAM

The Willmar Police Department has hired part-time employees during the summer months for the purpose of providing bicycle safety to the citizens of the community for more than 30 years. Additionally, up until 2004, part-time employees were also used to assist people crossing Business Highway 71 and Porto Rico Street NE, at a location known as the “Robbins Island Crossing”.

Summertime bike program employees are supervised under the direction of the Juvenile Sergeant. Currently, the bicycle safety patrol remains a part-time program operated during the summer months.

The initial program duties of the bicycle patrol included patrolling the streets for bicycle traffic violators, issuing bicycle warnings and citations when necessary, and conducting weekly bicycle safety seminars. However, under the direction of the Juvenile Sergeant., the program has now migrated toward summer bike employees being assigned different tasks in which bike officers are now being utilized to help out at several projects and events throughout the summer.

- During Willmar Fest, the bike patrol assisted with the Downtown Block Party and helped with traffic control during the Kiddie Parade and the Grande Day Parade. They helped organize and distribute emergency management books to all of the coordinators of the Willmar Fest events.
- In July, during the SonShine Music Festival, the bike patrol helped prepare parking signs and staffed the information booth at the police substation located at the event.
- The Willmar Police Department hosted the State DARE conference in August, and the bike patrol helped coordinate the event and assisted with activities involved with the conference.

Bike patrol employees performed bike safety classes for bicycle violators, community presentations on bike safety and set up obstacle courses at Cardinal Place and several daycare homes. . The part-time summer employees hired for 2011 were Andrew Halbritter and Ross Schwartz.

