

Council Business Meeting

May 21, 2019

Agenda Item	Ashland Police Department Annual Use of Force Report	
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SUMMARY

Since 2008 the police department has come before Council to provide an annual use of force report. This presentation has grown in scope and now includes use of force, crime and clearance rates and an update on the enhanced law enforcement area (ELEA).

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

47. Keep the Council informed of organizational activity and provide timely information for Council decision-making.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

During 2018 the Police Department used force 25 times. This represents an increase from 2017's 13 incidents. There were four instances of the Taser conducted energy weapon being used in 2018. There were no instances of pepper spray, the less lethal shotgun or the straight baton being used in 2018. There were three instances of officers being injured, with all the injuries being fairly minor. Of the 25 instances of use of force, nine resulted in the prisoner complaining of an injury. All of those complaints were minor in nature, and in no case did the prisoner require medical care. Twenty-eight percent of the use of force incidents involved a person under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Forty-four percent of the use of force incidents occurred at night. In 2018 APD handled over 29,000 calls for service and generated 3,831 case reports. This means that .6%, or 6/10th of one percent, of the calls that were handled by the APD resulted in a use of force.

The department's use of force review board reviews all instances of the use of force. All of the incidents of use of force in 2018 were deemed to be within policy.

During 2016 Ashland officers received a total of 746.5 hours of use of force training.

Crime rate is based on the number of part one crimes occurring in a jurisdiction. Part one crimes are those that are reported annually to the FBI for inclusion in the Uniform Crime Report. They are homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft, arson and larceny. In 2018 the city saw a total of 743 part one crimes. This is down slightly from the 799 reported in 2017. For further comparison in 2016 the PD took 886 part one cases, in 2015 we took 698 and 2014 we took 629. Violent crime is defined as homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. There were 31 violent crimes reported to the Ashland Police Department in 2018, down 22% from 2017 cases at 40. Clearance rates for part one crime remain high at 45%. Clearance rates for violent crime remains very high at 78%.

The Enhanced Law Enforcement Area (ELEA) ordinance has been in effect since August of 2012. The ELEA is roughly defined as downtown. In this area we see a concentrated number of complaints and disorderly behavior as this is the focal gathering point for many members of the community. A conviction of three or more qualifying violations (or crimes) in Ashland Municipal Court within a six-month period may result in a person being expelled from the downtown area. The qualifying violations are: scattering rubbish; unnecessary noise; dogs-control required; consumption of alcohol; open container of alcohol; dog license required; or use of marijuana in public. In 2018 there were 215 ELEA violation convictions in the municipal court. There were six people expelled from the downtown area and there were eight people charged with persistent violator failure to appear under the city ordinance. The ELEA continues to be a valuable tool to address chronic negative behavior.

FISCAL IMPACTS

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

None

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

None