



# Vermillion Police Department



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Edited by M. Betzen

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## Greetings from the Chief

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men and women of the Vermillion Police Department for their dedicated service and commitment to our community. I am new to both the community and the Police Department, and I have been impressed with the warmth my wife and I have been greeted with by both.

I come to the department with twenty-three years of law enforcement experience. I retired from the City of Unalaska, Alaska after twenty years of service.

I am proud to be a member of the Vermillion Police Department team, which consists of the most professional individuals I have had the experience of working with during my law enforcement career. I am humbled by the opportunity the City of Vermillion has given me to lead the Vermillion Police Department.

This year has been a year of change for the department. The departure of the former Chief, in January 2011, and additional turnover of four other department members, left the department seriously understaffed for the first half of the year. The summer brought my arrival and the hiring of two new officers. While periods of change can be stressful, they also present an opportunity for growth and the department has used this time to raise the bar for our team members and our organization.

In striving to raise the bar, we have continued the efforts of the previous administration in creating the most professional, well-trained department possible. Two key parts of this effort have been to start the process of strategic planning, and to start the transition from a rules based culture to a values based culture. As a result of these efforts, I envision the citizens will see the department continue to provide effective public safety services more efficiently with a focus on customer service.

This annual report for 2011 is an effort to provide a comprehensive view of the wide variety of services we provide to the community of Vermillion. We, the members of the Vermillion Police Department, take great pride in being allowed to serve our community. We hope this report gives you a snapshot of the challenging and rewarding services we provide to our community.

Respectfully,

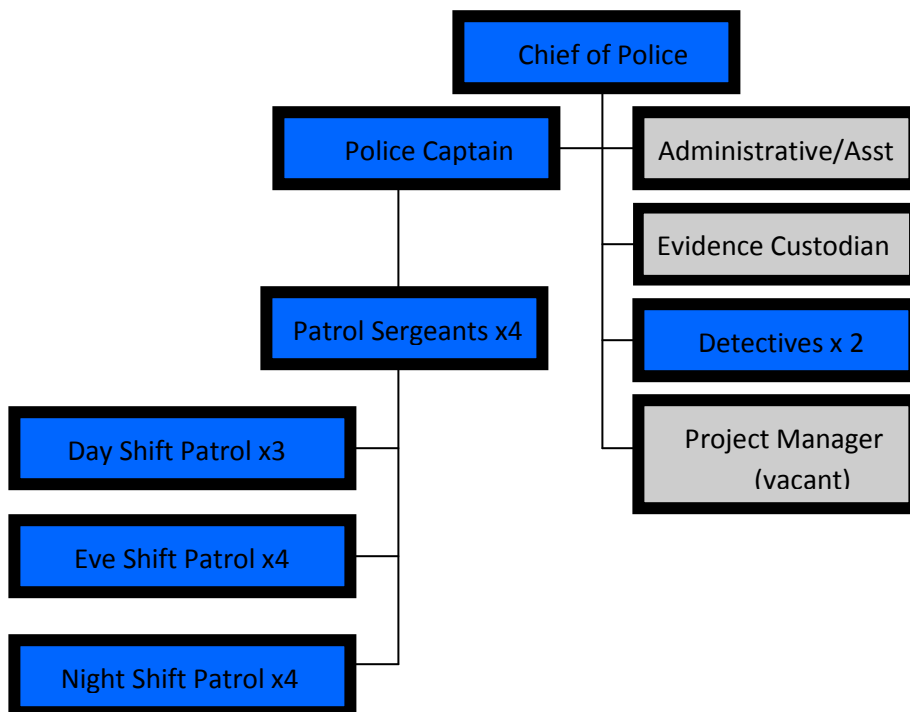
Matt Betzen,  
Chief of Police

## Fast Facts

Total Number of Sworn Officer Positions with the Vermillion Police Department	19
Total Number of non-sworn employee positions authorized	3 (2 part-time)
Total Calls For Service (CFS) in 2011	5336
Average Monthly CFS in 2011	445
Busiest Month of the Year (based on CFS)	October/581 CFS
Slowest Month of the Year (based on CFS)	March/339 CFS
Busiest Day of the Week on Average	Saturday
Slowest Day of the Week on Average	Monday
Number of Marked Patrol Vehicles	4
Number of Patrol Miles Driven	87,813
Total Number of Officer Training Hours	2763 Hours
Number of Parking Tickets Written	1399
Actual Total Cost of Department-2011	\$1,330,041.83

# Department Organization

The Vermillion Police Department is led by the Chief of Police who directly supervises the Police Captain, the Administrative Assistant, the Investigators (two), the Evidence/Property Manager, and the Project Manager (vacant). The Police Captain, in turn, supervises four Patrol Sergeants. The Patrol Sergeants oversee the shift-to-shift operations conducted by the eleven patrol officers. The current organizational chart:



## Patrol Division

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*Captain Chad Passick commands the Patrol Division. Captain Passick has been involved with Public Safety since 1994 and has been a member of the Vermillion Police Department since 1999. Captain Passick is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.*

The Vermillion Police Department's Patrol Division is responsible for emergency response to calls for service, traffic enforcement, crime prevention patrol, routine calls for service, and initial response to medical and fire emergencies. The Patrol Division is the workhorse of the department. It is made up of the Police Captain, four Sergeants, and eleven Police Officers. These sixteen sworn officers are the first responders when citizens call for help in Vermillion. They respond to all calls for service: police, EMS and Fire.

In 2011, the patrol division responded to 5,336 calls for service. These calls can range from parking disputes to death investigations, and can tie up one officer for a few minutes or six officers for days. The variety of calls is one of the exciting parts of being a police officer.

### **TRAFFIC IN VERMILLION**

One of the major functions in patrol is dealing with traffic issues. The focus of traffic enforcement is to address behaviors that result in accidents and injuries. For example, in 2011 the Vermillion Police Department (VPD) had 77 DWI arrests, wrote 162 speeding tickets, and 132 seatbelt violations. In addition to writing tickets, the patrol division made efforts to contact violators and educate them, as demonstrated by the more than 1,600 traffic warnings officers made. The patrol division also investigates traffic accidents that occur within the city limits. In 2011, there were 221 non-injury accidents, 13 injury accidents, and 1 fatality accident. The approximate total property damage, as result of these accidents, was \$679,331.70.

When not responding to calls for service, patrol officers spend their time focused on traffic enforcement. All of the patrol cars are equipped with RADAR units and video recording equipment to assist the officers in traffic enforcement. One of the tools used by the department for traffic enforcement is the motorcycle patrol.

*Highlight: Motorcycle Patrol*



*Sergeant Ben Nelsen has been with the Department since 2004 and was promoted to Sergeant in 2010. Sgt. Nelsen enjoys motorcycles and has been the driving force behind the use of the Department's motorcycle patrol.*

The motorcycle currently used by the VPD is a 2004 Harley Davidson Road King (FLPHI) and has 19884 miles on it. The lights on it have been upgraded to LEDs from the old strobe system with the addition of a LED box on the back. These upgraded lights make the bike more visible when running in emergency mode.

2011 was an unusual year for the Motorcycle Officers. Normally the Harley is taken out and ridden once the weather warms up in mid to late April. Sgt. Nelsen had the bike out on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Officer Warner took the bike to Sioux Falls for his biennial refresher training in early May and, from there, he and Sgt. Nelsen rode the bike on patrol.

A series of mechanical and electrical problems took the bike out of service for most of June and July. All told the bike was out of commission for about two months, it was then used until the weather turned cool in early October.

Approximately 4,000 miles were put on the bike during 2011. On average, the bike has 50 miles put on it during a shift, so the bike was ridden for 80 shifts. While the ticket to shift ratio is low, the bike is primarily a public relations tool focused on visibility and deterrence.

### **Special Events**

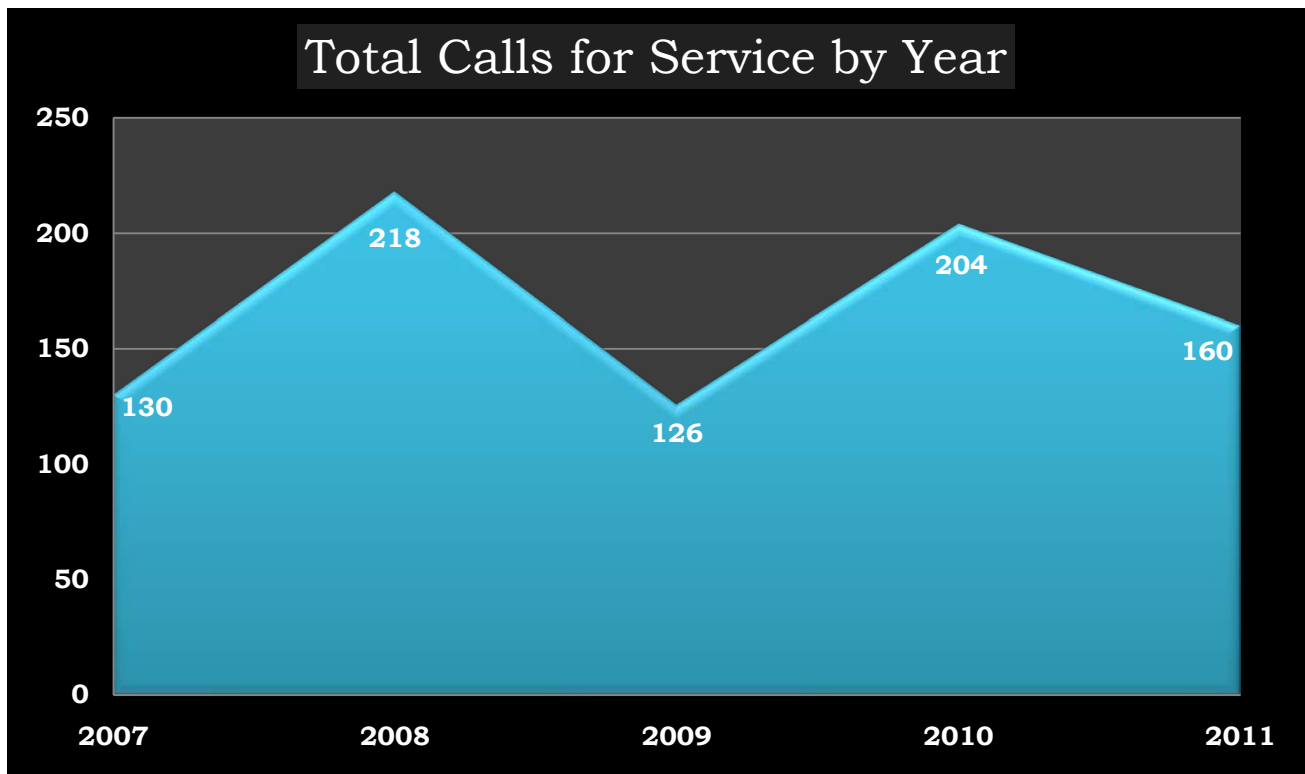
While the patrol division's primary responsibilities involve responding to calls for service and dealing with traffic issues, the members are called on to provide a safe environment for special events that occur in the community throughout the year. The largest of these events is the annual Dakota Days (D-Days) Celebration. D-Days usually occurs in October and the festivities surrounding D-Days represent the busiest time of year for the department.

*Highlight: D-Days by Sgt. Jacy Nelsen*

Dakota Days is an annual event held in Vermillion to celebrate the University of South Dakota homecoming events. The city experiences an influx of people from around the area who come to celebrate. With the increase in temporary population comes an increase in criminal activity, especially alcohol offenses. The Vermillion Police Department increases staffing to accommodate for the increase in call volume during this event.



The following is a statistical analysis of activity during a four day (96 hour) period of the Dakota Days week. Information was gathered from midnight on the Thursday through 23:59 on the Sunday of the week. Data was compiled for the years 2007 to 2011, based on information available in the LEDS report system. It should be mentioned that the data for the year 2007 was imported into the LEDS system when it was implemented during the fall of 2008. This information may not be as accurate as the data pulled for the following years due to some complications with transferring the information from one system to another. Extra time was spent, however, to compile the 2007 data as accurately as possible with the information that was provided.

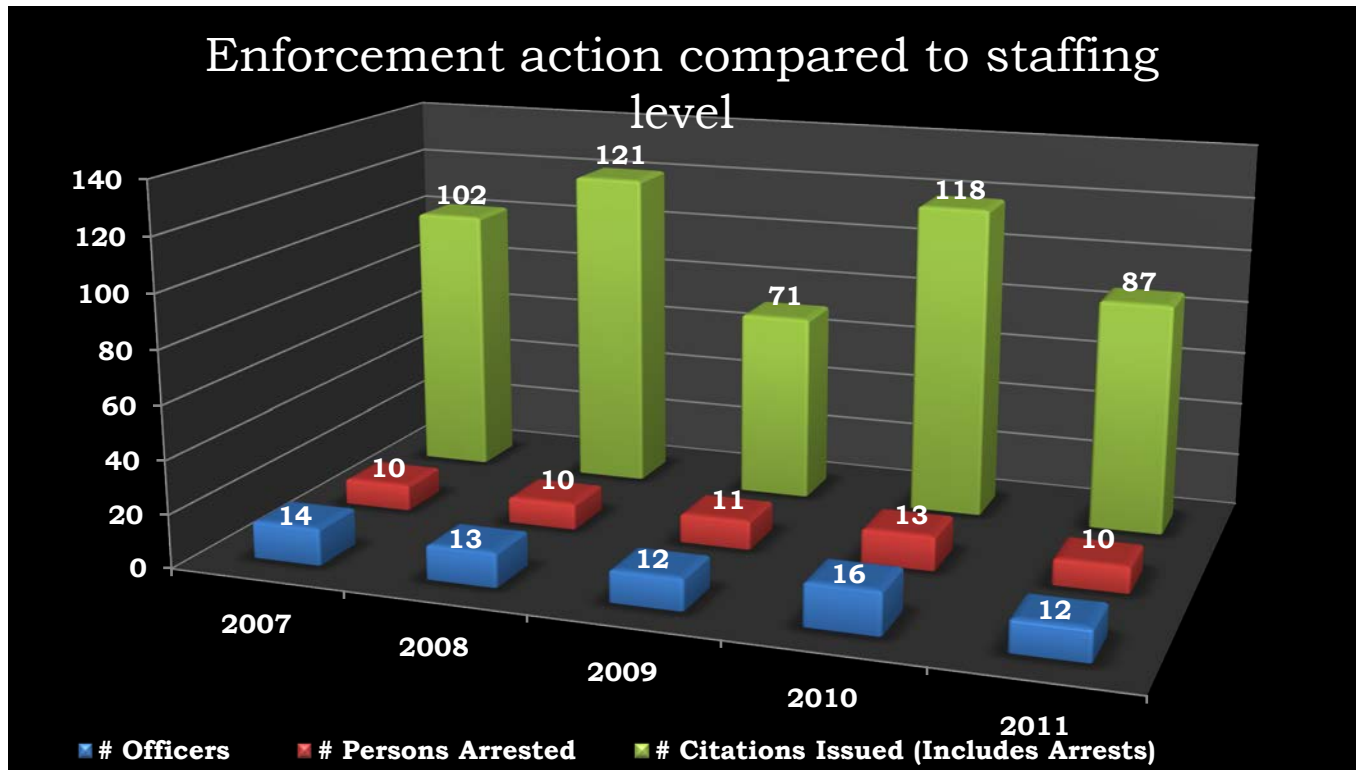


The above chart depicts the overall volume of calls for service for each year. Although basic information, it provides a visual representation of the communities need for police presence and response. This data is only for calls to the Vermillion Police Department and does not include Clay County Sheriff’s Office, University Police Department, or South Dakota Highway Patrol activity in the area. The years 2008 and 2010 stand out as a substantial increase in calls for service over the other years analyzed.

The following bar chart is a comparison of the number of sworn officers working during the given year with the number of citations and arrests made. The number of arrests remains fairly consistent from year to year despite the changes in call volumes as shown in the first chart. The years 2008 and 2010 show the highest numbers of citations issued,



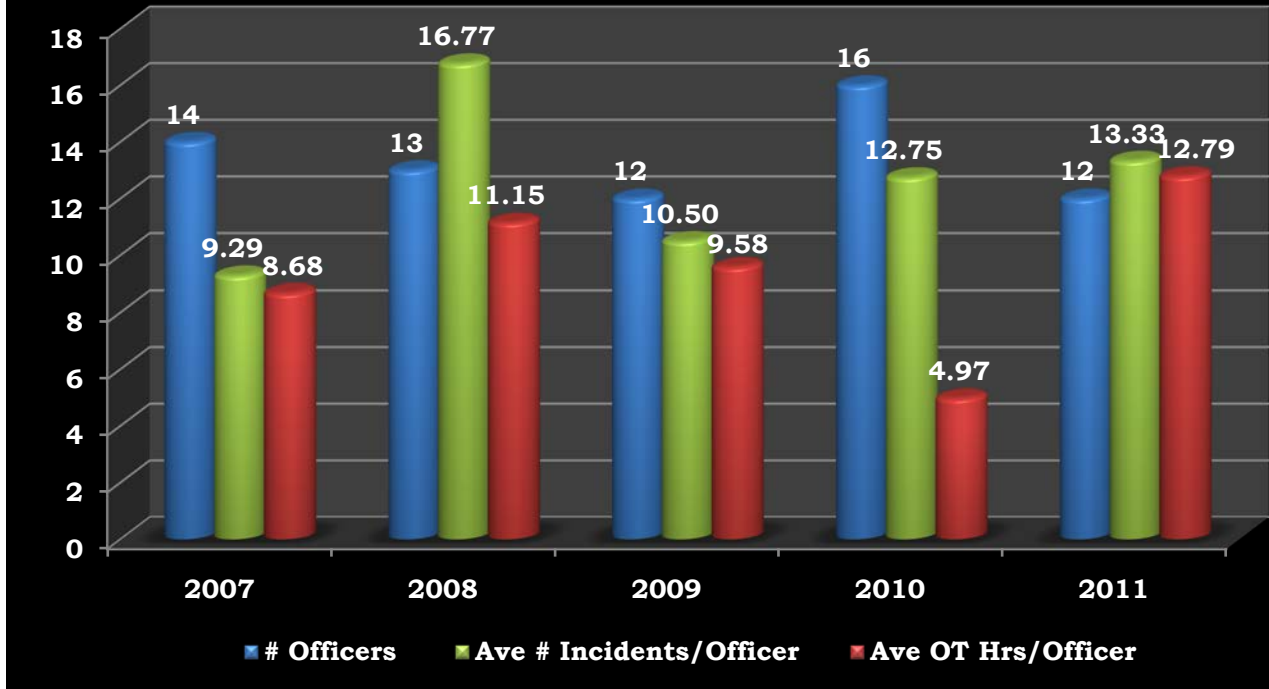
correlating with the increased calls for service for those years. Low staffing levels for 2009 and 2011 were a likely contributor to the decrease in enforcement levels for those years.



Lastly, we take a look at the workload for the officers from year to year. The chart on the next page shows the number of officers working during the four day period. Keep in mind, this does not mean each officer worked each of the four days but rather that the department staffing level was only capable of providing this number of uniformed officers for these days. These numbers do not include the Chief of Police or the Captain, although they typically aid in uniformed patrol during peak hours.

The second bar on this chart shows an average number of incidents per officer. Again, keep in mind not every officer worked every day and typically a higher call volume is experienced during the late evening to early morning hours. The third bar on the chart shows the average number of overtime hours the employee worked during the four day period. Usually, a higher number of staff results in lower overtime hours and expenditure.

## Officer Workload



These comparisons illustrate that the level of activity during D-Days exceeds the ability of the department to address it. The illustration shows that the number of arrests and calls for service is tied to the number of officers working. Adding more officers simply increases the department's ability to address the activities occurring during D-Days without a corresponding decrease in work available.

## Investigations Division

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*Detective Crystal Brady is the department's senior investigator. She has been a member of the department since 2000 and has been a detective since 2004. Detective Brady coordinates all the department's major investigations.*

In 2011, the Vermillion Police Department had two full-time detectives. The need for dedicated specialized investigators has become a necessary component of the modern police service. Public expectations, and the ever increasing complexity of criminal investigations, requires dedicated officers with advanced training. The detectives of the Investigations Division are responsible for taking over major investigations after the patrol division's initial response. In 2011, the Investigations Division took over 122 cases including: assaults, sex crimes, burglaries, death investigations, and other felony crimes. Below is a summary of a few of those cases:

### *Summary Example of Investigative Cases by: Detective Brady*

Detectives received information from an investigator with the Capitol Police in Washington DC that a male resident in Vermillion was making threats towards a member of congress. Vermillion Detectives and South Dakota DCI went to the male's residence to speak with him about the threats. While at the residence, the odor of marijuana was detected. A search warrant was obtained for the residence. More than two ounces of marijuana, LSD, and several items of drug paraphernalia, were among the items seized during the search. The male and female occupants were arrested and charged.

Detectives were contacted regarding some controlled substances that were stolen from a medical facility. Detectives investigated and established that one of the nurses at the facility was a suspect in the theft. Detectives arranged an interview with the suspect who admitted to stealing the drugs and consuming them while on duty. The nurse was charged with several counts of unauthorized possession of a controlled substance.

Officers responded to a 911 call regarding a male that was assaulted in the McDonald's parking lot. By the time officers arrived, the suspects had already fled the area. The victim was transported to the hospital due to his injuries. Officers made contact with a male witness that observed the assault from across the street. The witness gave descriptions of two male suspects that were hanging out around Coyote Convenience before they assaulted the victim.

The witness said the two suspects left the area running southeast. Detectives searched nearby video systems and debit card use and were able to identify two suspects that had been visiting Vermillion from Dell Rapids, SD. Detectives located and interviewed one of the suspects. He admitted that he and his coworker were present at the time of the assault. He also admitted that his coworker assaulted the victim. Both suspects were charged with aggravated assault.

Officers responded to a burglary at a trailer. There were several items stolen from the residence, including a 52" flat screen TV, a Playstation 3, a Playstation 2, numerous DVDs, numerous Bluray discs, and numerous Playstation games. Later in the year, while responding to an unrelated situation, officers found some of the stolen items. Detectives responded to the trailer and interviewed the female victim of the assault. During a search of the residence, several of the stolen items were located. The woman at the residence stated that she knew her husband stole the items from the trailer. Detectives interviewed the husband and learned that he, his wife, his wife's male cousin, and the cousin's girlfriend burglarized the other trailer. The cousin and his girlfriend left Vermillion the next morning and took about half of the stolen property. Det. Brady re-interviewed the wife. She admitted that she also took part in the burglary. The husband, the wife, and the male cousin were charged with 1<sup>st</sup> degree burglary and grand theft. The cousin's girlfriend will be charged once her legal name and date of birth are determined.

*Community Outreach Events:*

In addition to coordinating major investigations, Detective Brady is active in overseeing a variety of annual community outreach events. These include the Spring Bicycle Rodeo, The Summer National Night Out, and the Fall Public Safety Open House. Each of these events serves to provide an opportunity for community members to meet and interact with department members outside of their traditional roles. This type of interaction is important in developing trust and understanding between the Department and the community we serve.



Sgt. Ben Nelsen conducting repairs at Bike Rodeo



Officer Hansen providing instruction at Bike Rodeo





Detective Hower running a game at National Night Out



The Dunk Tank is always a popular attraction



The Fall Open House is held around Halloween, and employees get into the spirit of that holiday for the Open House. From left to right Janna Mollet, Crystal Brady, Nick Marcus, Robin Hower, Kevin Malloy, Chief Deputy West.

*Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) by Sgt. Trowbridge*



*Sergeant Luke Trowbridge has been a member of the Vermillion Police Department since 2007, and was promoted to Sergeant in 2010. In addition to serving as a Patrol Sergeant, Luke instructs in tactical communications and oversees the CPTED program.*

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or CPTED is a crime prevention tool being utilized both nationally and worldwide. The main concept of CPTED is to design a community's surroundings with a desired outcome in mind. The outcome consists of placing desired people there or keeping undesired people away. The range of applications is limitless as CPTED can be useful in the design of a new structure or to retrofit an older facility for residential, commercial or public use. A short presentation was made at a City Department Head meeting to introduce the concept. Assistance and ideas were later offered to the Vermillion School District when it sought to make facility upgrades at the elementary schools to improve traffic flow and parking. Plans are currently being made to create a community crime prevention informational seminar.

More recently, The Vermillion Police Department has developed a supplementary method of introducing CPTED. This was done with the commencement of The Vermillion Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. This program works with property owners and managers to assist them in crime reduction efforts on their respective properties. Association with the program requires the owner or manager attend a training, that the property meet physical security requirements and tenant applications be screened for criminal background.



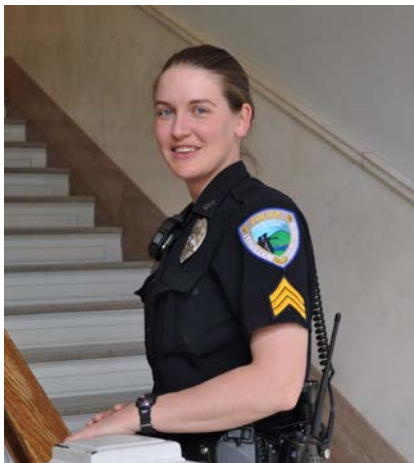
The first Crime Free Housing class was offered in October of 2010 following advertisement of a manager's seminar classroom training. Physical security measures were verified in 2011 on a complex to become the first prospective property listed in the new program. Additional classes are being scheduled to solicit more properties and participants into the program.

## Special Recognition

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*Officer Randy Crum has been with the department since 2003. In addition to his duties as a Patrol Officer, Randy is the Department's Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor and Firearms Instructor. In August of 2011, Randy was nominated for and received the "Chief's Excellence Award" in recognition of his efforts to improve the quality of the Department's Firing Range and his willingness to help other department members in mastering Firearms and EVOC skills.*



*Sergeant Jacy Nelsen has been with the department since 2007. In October of 2011, she competed and was selected for promotion to Sergeant. In addition to her new duties as a Patrol Sergeant, Jacy is a Drug Recognition Expert assisting agencies throughout the region with DWI Arrests where drug consumption is suspected.*



*Officer Brandon Hansen has been with the department since July of 2010. A Vermillion native, Brandon is recognized as a dedicated officer who is motivated to go the extra mile. In addition to working full time as an Officer, he is a volunteer firefighter and an active member of the ambulance crew. The management staff selected Brandon as the 2011 Employee of the Year.*



## Statistics

The department maintains a database that can be mined for a variety of statistical information. For the purpose of this report, we have generated three different views of this information to provide a picture of our activity. Three years of statistics have been represented for these views.

*Calls for Service (CFS)* is the initial classification system for calls that come into the department. The table below lists the categories of CFS and the number received each year in each category.

<u>Description</u>	<u>CFS Year</u>		
	2009	2010	2011
911-Other	254	293	281
Accident w/Injury	13	22	14
Accident w/out Injury	237	253	221
Alarm	71	65	53
Alcohol Incident (non-traffic)	78	125	81
Animal Complaint	154	125	125
Assault	37	44	39
Assist other Agency	51	93	82
Burglary	54	64	45
Check Welfare	132	104	115
Damage to Property	128	145	119
Death Investigation	1	1	3
Dispute Between Persons	84	75	156
Domestic Incident	58	75	99
Drug Related	14	21	25
Found Property	154	181	173
Fraud	20	30	45
Funeral Escort	9	11	8
Information Item	600	612	573
Juvenile Delinquency	6	6	14
Lost Property	76	67	68
Medical Incident	213	282	275
Mental Illness	11	8	11
Missing Person	21	19	36
Noise Complaint	175	120	158
Public Disorder	47	85	63
Robbery	1	1	0
Sex Crimes	6	7	12
Suspicious Activity	189	198	235
Theft	207	231	223
Traffic Incident	1,614	3,198	1,898
Transport	1	1	2
Violation of Court Order	1	10	8
Wanted Person	27	22	21
Weapons Related Incident	0	4	1

*National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)*: is a federally standardized system of categorizing crimes known to police. While these numbers often appear to conflict with other statistics because of varying definitions of crimes between state and federal agencies, they are a view of the community that is standardized nationwide. This report can be produced automatically through our agency's records management system (LEDS).

<b>NIBRS Code</b>	Description	<b>Case Year</b>		
		2009	2010	2011
100	Kidnapping/Abduction	0	1	1
11A	Forcible Rape	3	11	7
11D	Forcible Fondling	7	6	5
120	Robbery	1	1	0
13A	Aggravated Assault	6	11	16
13B	Simple Assault	67	106	97
13C	Intimidation	13	19	20
200	Arson	0	0	3
220	Burglary/Breaking and Entry	15	35	29
23A	Larceny/Theft	0	1	2
23B	Purse-snatching	3	0	3
23C	Shoplifting	11	14	14
23D	Theft from Building	20	27	36
23F	Theft from Motor Vehicle	28	42	33
23G	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	3	1	5
23H	Other Larceny	110	123	98
240	Motor Vehicle Theft	8	16	18
250	Counterfeiting/Forgery	16	17	16
26A	Fraud/Swindle, False Statement	6	1	1
26C	Fraud/Imprison	15	21	14
270	Embezzlement	1	0	0
280	Stolen Property Offenses	1	2	6
290	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	99	127	98
35A	Drug/Narcotic Violation	90	73	107
35B	Drug Equipment Violation	35	25	42
36B	Statutory Rape	1	1	1
370	Obscene material	1	3	0
40A	Prostitution	0	1	0
40B	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	1
520	Weapons Law Violation	2	0	3
90A	Bad Checks	5	3	7
90B	Curfew/Loitering	2	1	0
90C	Disorderly Conduct	119	112	106
90D	Driving Under the Influence	92	98	95
90F	Family Offenses/Nonviolent	3	2	4
90G	Liquor Law Violation	236	268	207
90H	Peeping Tom	2	3	1
90I	Runaway	1	3	9
90J	Trespass of real property	11	37	27
90Z	All Other Offenses	97	142	164

*Disposition Codes:* Calls for service that generate an incident report are eventually cleared using a final disposition code. These dispositions are:

Closed – Charges Filed: These are cases that resulted in criminal charges being filed

Closed – Prosecution Declined: These are cases that were referred to the States Attorney, and charges were declined.

Closed – Resolved: These are cases where the complaint was resolved, and did not result in charges.

Closed – Unresolved: These are cases where the issue remains unresolved. One example would be an unsolved vandalism.

Forward to Investigations: These are cases that are forwarded to the Detectives for additional investigation. Note: this disposition code was started in late 2009, and its use evolved to its current standard in 2010. So while 2010 shows only 37 cases were forward to Detectives, actually 67 were investigated.

Forward to Other Agency: These are cases that where the event occurred outside our jurisdiction or the crime involves special agencies.

Under Investigation: These are cases that have not been closed and are still actively being investigated.

Under Prosecutor Review: These are cases that have been referred to the States Attorney and a final determination has not been recorded in the case file. Some of these numbers reflect a process glitch, where old cases are not always updated with final dispositions from the S.A.

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>Case Year</u>		
	2009	2010	2011
Closed - Charges Filed	1,201	1,610	855
Closed - Prosecution Declined	61	64	29
Closed - Resolved	4,199	4,262	3,646
Closed - Unresolved	498	647	604
Forward to Investigations	4	37	122
Forward to Other Agency	99	106	124
Under Investigation	4	16	30
Under Prosecutor Review	6	14	50

In 2011, 122 cases were referred to the Detectives for additional investigation. These tend to be cases that involve significant resources to investigate and tend to be more serious offenses.

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>Case Year</u>		
	2009	2010	2011
Closed - Charges Filed	0	21	21
Closed - Prosecution Declined	0	5	4
Closed - Resolved	0	25	58
Closed - Unresolved	0	11	19
Forward to Other Agency	0	3	6
Under Investigation	1	2	6
Under Prosecutor Review	0	0	8
Totals		67	122

## Budget vs. Actual Expenditures

The following Table provides a financial picture of the department's expenditures during 2011. The total cost for the Police Department in 2011 was \$1,330,041.83, which represents 89.75% of the total budgeted in 2011. The department's staffing shortage was the major reason for this short-fall.

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Budget	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00
Monthly Exp. - Admin	\$25,053.43	\$41,955.45	\$22,604.65	\$31,207.97	\$20,428.13	\$19,936.95
Monthly Exp. - Patrol	\$65,406.14	\$77,664.23	\$75,596.54	\$102,108.56	\$77,890.90	\$71,102.49
Dept. Monthly Expenses	\$90,459.57	\$119,619.68	\$98,201.19	\$133,316.53	\$98,319.03	\$91,039.44
YTD Expenses	\$90,459.57	\$210,079.25	\$308,280.44	\$441,596.97	\$539,916.00	\$630,955.44
% of Year	8.33%	16.67%	25.00%	33.33%	41.67%	50.00%
% Expended	6.10%	14.18%	20.80%	29.80%	36.43%	42.57%
Budgeted Monthly Average:	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Budget	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00	\$1,482,013.00
Monthly Exp. - Admin	\$33,993.25	\$34,184.84	\$36,198.27	\$28,669.88	\$37,900.77	\$45,025.00
Monthly Exp. - Patrol	\$72,153.36	\$74,471.93	\$95,831.73	\$73,747.00	\$65,238.63	\$101,671.73
Dept. Monthly Expenses	\$106,146.61	\$108,656.77	\$132,030.00	\$102,416.88	\$103,139.40	\$146,696.73
YTD Expenses	\$737,102.05	\$845,758.82	\$977,788.82	\$1,080,205.70	\$1,183,345.10	\$1,330,041.83
% of Year	58.33%	66.67%	75.00%	83.33%	91.67%	100.00%
% Expended	49.74%	57.07%	65.98%	72.89%	79.85%	89.75%
Budgeted Monthly Average:	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08	\$123,501.08