



# 2014 Annual Report Vermillion Police Department



Written by the Vermillion Police  
Department

Edited by M. Betzen

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## Greetings from the Chief

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2014 is in the books. This report is intended to give an overview of 2014. The report includes several feature pieces detailing department operations and activities. These feature pieces are authored by the department members who participate in these activities. Additionally, the report includes statistics and other facts regarding the department and its response to criminal activity in Vermillion.

Last year in my annual greeting I outlined a problem the department has had with retention over the last several years. In

2014, we implemented steps intended to improve retention. In 2011-2013, we lost on average 4.75 positions a year. The goal is to reduce annual turnover to 1.9 positions a year by the end of 2016. Last year, we lost our Evidence/Property Manager (a half time position). We filled the position and that person left at the end of 2014. So, for 2014, we lost one position. Hopefully, this trend will continue.

The investigative division's submission to this report demonstrates a significant increase in their workload. Specifically, illegal drug investigations and sexual assault cases have taxed the divisions' two investigators. Unfortunately, both of these areas will likely continue to tax the divisions' resources. We will need to address this with additional staff in the future.

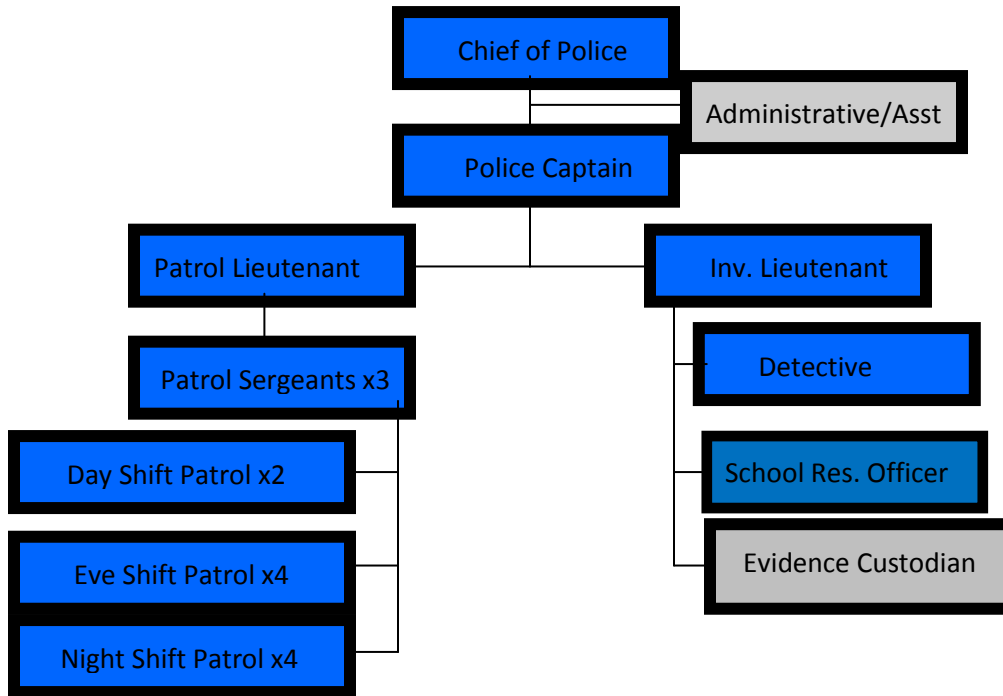
In 2014, I also looked for funding to add Officer mounted cameras to the department's tool list. This effort started in late 2013 and included a group of officers researching the various camera options available. While no system is perfect, Taser's Axon system, which has been in use in Aberdeen SD for several years, combines quality cameras and data management services. Funding for this project included two steps. The first was ongoing software support, I asked the Council for an increase in my 2015 budget to reflect this additional expense. The second step was to apply for an Attorney General's grant through the drug seizure program for the hardware component of the system. In December, the South Dakota Attorney General awarded the Vermillion Police Department and Clay County Sheriff's Department a grant to cover the hardware costs of the program. In 2015, we will be purchasing the cameras, and adopting policies governing their use by the officers.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please let me know. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 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	2 (1 part-time)
Total Calls For Service (CFS) in 2014	6,630
Average Monthly CFS in 2014	552.5
Busiest Month of the Year (based on CFS)	October (699)
Slowest Month of the Year (based on CFS)	November (437)
Busiest Day of the Week	Saturday (1,185)
Slowest Day of the Week	Tuesday (818)
Number of Marked Patrol Vehicles	5 (2 unmarked)
Number of Patrol Miles Driven	101,735
Total Number of Officer Training Hours	2,447.5
Number of Parking Tickets Written	1,449
Actual Total Cost of Department-2014	\$1,619,794.51

The organizational chart for 2014 was:



Above is the organizational chart for the Vermillion Police Department. In broad terms, the Chief, Administrative Assistant and the Police Captain perform the planning, logistics, financial, information systems, and quality control for the department. The Patrol side of the chart are the uniformed officers who respond to calls, perform traffic enforcement and do the lion's share of the day to day work. The Investigative side is responsible for major case investigations, coordinating with other agencies, drug investigations, alcohol compliance checks, school safety, and community outreach.

In addition to these specific assignments, all department members are encouraged to be problem solvers and find innovative community friendly methods of addressing issues.

## **Investigations Division by Lt. Brady**

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The Investigations Division is lead by Lieutenant Crystal Brady. Lt. Brady has been with the Vermillion Police Department since 2000. This division also includes one detective, one school resource officer, and one evidence clerk. Lt. Brady and Det. Robin Hower are responsible for investigating all of the felony cases, serious misdemeanor cases, death investigations, coordinated drug investigations (with DCI) and alcohol compliance checks. The detectives receive many hours of specialized training to learn how to handle in-depth investigations, such as processing and photographing crime scenes, collecting and analyzing evidence, interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses, writing and executing search warrants, conducting controlled drug buys, and managing large case files. Technology has made suspects and their crimes much more complex. The detectives need to stay current on all the latest information to more efficiently combat crime. Unfortunately, television has lead our society to believe that each crime committed is wrapped up and solved in a short period of time and then the detectives move on to the next crime. In reality, the detectives spend long hours working on multiple cases simultaneously with limited investigative leads and tangible evidence to go on. The Investigations Division is dedicated to making Vermillion a safer community.

In 2014, the Investigations Division received 197 cases for review and investigation. Those cases include forgeries, thefts, assaults, sex crimes, burglaries, death investigations, drug investigations, and other felony crimes. Below is a summary of a few of those cases:

### **Summary Example of Investigative Cases**

A mother reported that her three-year-old daughter made statements to her about her father touching her private parts. The child was taken to Child's Voice in Sioux Falls. Child's Voice conducts interviews and examinations on children that have been abused physically and sexually. During the interview, the child made statements to the interviewer that indicated she had been raped by her father. After the interview, Lt. Brady met with and interviewed the father. The father admitted that he raped his daughter. The father was arrested and charged with first degree rape. The father later plead guilty to first degree rape and was sentenced to thirty years in prison.

Det. Hower received a report from the Yankton Police Department of a male that was passing forged \$20 bills in Yankton. The Yankton Police Department forwarded Det. Hower a still photo from a surveillance camera of the suspect. Det. Hower identified the suspect as a male living in Vermillion. Det. Hower collected information on all of the forged money that was passed by the suspect in Yankton, Sioux City, and possibly South Sioux City. Det. Hower interviewed the suspect and learned that the suspect had made the forged money on his home computer and printer. The suspect was charged with forgery and possession for a forgery instrument.

Det. Hower received a report that a woman had been raped at her residence. The female identified the suspect. Det. Hower interviewed the suspect, who admitted to raping the female victim at her residence while he was staying at the residence as a temporary guest of her roommates. The suspect was charged with third degree rape. The suspect was already facing charges for videotaping a female in a shower on the USD campus earlier that week.

Lt. Brady received a report from a male that stated some of his checks were stolen and forged to several businesses in Vermillion. The male knew who the suspect was and stated that the suspect had lived with him and his girlfriend for a short period of time. Lt. Brady spoke with employees from several of the businesses and collected some surveillance video, which verified the suspect the male named was in fact the suspect that forged the checks. Lt. Brady obtained a search warrant for the suspect's home and located some of the stolen and forged checks that had not yet been passed by the suspect. Lt. Brady also located some controlled substances in the residence that were illegally possessed by the suspect. The suspect was charged with theft and possession of a controlled substance.

Lt. Brady received a report from the FBI stating that they received a suspicious activity report from a bank in Vermillion regarding the bank accounts belonging to non-profit sports organizations. Lt. Brady spoke with the presidents from these two groups and determined that someone with access to the accounts had been stealing money from the accounts for personal use. Lt. Brady identified and interviewed the suspect. The suspect admitted that she had stolen money from the two accounts. The suspect was charged with theft.

### **Alcohol Compliance Checks**

The Investigations Division conducted 41 alcohol compliance checks at businesses in Vermillion in 2014. The detectives utilized confidential informants between the ages of 18 and 20 years of age to enter businesses that sell alcohol and attempted to purchase alcohol. The confidential informants had their actual identification to present when asked. Our goal is to get employees at these establishments to request identification from everyone purchasing alcohol and for them to actually read the dates of birth and determine if the person is over the age of 21. Out of the 41 business checks in 2014, 10 of those business sold alcohol to the confidential informants. Some of the employees requested to see the identification of the confidential informants and sold the alcohol anyway, while some of the employees did not even ask to see their identification. The Vermillion Police Department's goal is to reduce the number of businesses that are selling alcohol to people under the age of 21.

The Compliance check effort took about 75 officer hours, employed 10 confidential informants, and cost about \$2000 for pay and buy money (purchase alcohol and food during compliance checks). These officer hours are paid at overtime as this is an extra duty on top of the investigative work load.

## **Drug Investigations**

During the past few years, the Investigations Division has been working with the Division of Criminal Investigation to be increasingly proactive in dealing with the drug problem in Vermillion. No one wants to admit that their community has a drug problem, because they do not see it on a daily basis. Vermillion is no different than any other community in that we have people bringing drugs into our neighborhoods and selling or providing these drugs to our kids. The drugs being used in our community are no longer limited to small amounts of marijuana. The Investigations Division has been seizing drugs such as 25i (a synthetic form of acid), LSD, heroin, hash, meth, mushrooms, DMT (a hallucinogenic drug), and MDMA (Ecstasy). The Investigations Division has also been seizing illegally possessed prescription drugs, such as Ritalin, OxyContin, and Morphine, which can be just as deadly as street drugs.

Drug cases take a lot of teamwork and man hours. These cases require the detectives to conduct multiple weeks of surveillance, collect intelligence information, develop leads, utilize confidential informants, conduct controlled drug buys, and execute search warrants. Although these activities are a huge part of keeping drugs out of Vermillion, they are all proactive steps this means they take a backseat to other cases when the detectives have large case loads. Here are some examples of some drug cases the Investigations Division has worked on in 2014.

### **Summary Example of Drug Cases**

The Investigations Division and DCI received information from several sources that a male living in Vermillion was selling and using heroin, meth, hash, and prescription drugs. The drug activities this male and his friends were involved in attracted another male to show up in his front yard and make threats with a gun. The Investigations Division and DCI made controlled drug buys from this male using confidential informant(s). Even after this male was arrested, he continued to use and sell drugs. The Investigations Division and DCI received information that this male's sister and her husband were transporting illegal drugs to this male from another state. Through the investigation, a traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle belonging to the sister and her husband. Heroin was located in their vehicle. The sister's husband admitted to delivering prescription drugs to the male in Vermillion. The sister's husband also stated that the male was traveling to other states to locate sources of heroin for distribution and consumption in the Vermillion community. The male in Vermillion was convicted of felony drug charges and was sentenced to the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

The Investigations Division and DCI utilized two confidential informants to gain information about illegal activity going on in a residence in Vermillion. The information led to a consent search of the residence which resulted in locating approximately 1 ½ pounds of marijuana. The marijuana had been weighed out and packaged into one ounce increments to be distributed and sold to members of the community. Detectives also located several drug paraphernalia items, including a scale, baggies, and pipes. These items



are consistent with the distribution of drugs. The male admitted to purchasing multiple pounds of marijuana from a male in another state and redistributing it to Vermillion community members. He gave information regarding his source for the marijuana, and he assisted law enforcement in conducting a controlled drug buy of one pound of marijuana from his source. The male was also charged with felony drug charges. The male's source was also interviewed. He admitted to distributing multiple pounds of marijuana over the past two years. He estimated his profit to be as high as \$96,000 a year. The source was also charged with felony charges.



Pounds of Marijuana, cash and other items found during a search warrant service at a drug dealers residence.

Officers responded to an apartment in Vermillion for a noise complaint. Four males in the apartment were smoking marijuana. Officers arrested the four males and charged them with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and ingestion. Officers obtained a urine sample from each of the males. One of the males tested positive for cocaine. This male assisted the Investigations Division and DCI with conducting controlled drug buys from multiple dealers in which he purchased mushrooms, MDT, MDMA, 25i, and Ritalin. Each of those dealers was charged with felony drug charges. A couple of those dealers cooperated with law enforcement and conducted controlled drug buy for drugs including LSD and 25i. One of the dealers has already been convicted for his felony drug charges and was sentenced to the South Dakota State Penitentiary.



This Jar contains 25i, an LSD like synthetic drug that has become popular with young people. Like LSD the drug is usually placed on small tabs of paper using an eye dropper and then the tab is consumed to get the desired high. This jar was purchased in a joint VPD/DCI operation.

### **Additional Investigator Needed:**

The increase in activity, including drug investigation efforts, has led to the realization that an additional position is needed in the Investigative Division. An effort to seek funding for a new position is planned for the 2016 budget.

In 2014, the Vermillion Police Department experimented with creating a third temporary investigator position for six months. Three patrol officers were given the opportunity to fill the position for two months each. The officers filling this position have assisted with following up on cases forwarded to investigations, conducting alcohol compliance checks, and working on drug related investigations. This third position has allowed the Investigations Division to follow up more efficiently on more cases while continuing to be proactive in working on drug investigations. This position has also allowed the Investigations Division to assist patrol officers in making their reports more complete.

The addition of a permanent third detective would greatly enhance the Vermillion Police Department's ability to continue conducting thorough investigations in conjunction with working large drug cases.

## Patrol Division by Lt. Trowbridge

The Vermillion Police Department's Patrol Division consists of the officers in uniform that the public notices and recognizes as the police. Patrol officers respond to all calls for service: Police, EMS and Fire. It is the responsibility of these uniformed patrol officers to respond to emergency and routine calls for service including medical and fire emergencies, criminal investigations, traffic and parking enforcement and patrolling our community. Calls for service can have a wide variety of ranges in that some can be addressed in a short time while other calls can lead to lengthy investigations. With respect to staff the Patrol Division is the larger component of the department. It is made up of a lieutenant, three sergeants, and ten patrol officers. These fourteen sworn officers are the first responders when citizens call for assistance in Vermillion.

In 2014, the patrol staff was busy with our usual duties and responsibilities like Dakota Days as well as some areas for outreach with the community such as the Explorer Post and ALICE training for citizens, safety talks for local venues, Law Enforcement Torch Run and Polar Plunge, the Bike Rodeo, Open House and National Night Out as well as completing training with our newest officers at the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Center in Pierre.

### Leadership

*By Sergeant Ryan Hough*



Beginning in 2014 the staff of the Vermillion Police Department undertook the challenge of succession training with its employees. Recognizing the need to train tomorrow's leaders, today, the Department began monthly leadership development training. Many of the courses were taught by different members of the department, and were designed to expose the members of management to new topics, techniques, and theories to manage the department to meet the

needs of the community.

Some of the more notable topics included training in ethical decision making, interpersonal communication strategies, influencing and effecting changes within the organization, to employee rewards and recognition. In August 2014 the management staff began the task of completely re-writing the departments employee evaluation system.

The desired end result will be a comprehensive, effective system that allows the employee to grow and develop to reach their potential within the agency. Additionally, by re-writing the evaluation system it allows for members of management within the department to more effectively lead their employees, which results in better service to the community.

The training events were not limited to members of management, but were also open to members who are certified Police Training Officers (PTO). PTO employees are tasked with the critical responsibility of training new employees when they are hired. The ability of a PTO to effectively influence and lead new employees depends greatly on their leadership skills being continuously developed.



Additionally, three members of the department attended the prestigious “Leadership in Police Organizations” (LPO) course. The LPO course is among the more revered courses offered by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). A three week long course, based in Pierre, SD, is a time intensive course designed to instruct the students on the many techniques and philosophies in managing employees, teams, and entire organizations.

Students continuously work together in groups and teams to accomplish large projects, present material to their classmates, and gain knowledge and insight that they can take back to improve the function and flow of their agency. This results in a strengthened partnership between the department and members of the community.

The momentum created through training and developing tomorrow’s leaders has greatly increased the effectiveness of the members of management in the Vermillion Police Department.

Link to IACP LPO course overview

<http://www.theiacp.org/Leadership-in-Police-Organizations-LPO>

## **Bike Patrol**

*By Officer Jess Wade*

This year, two certified bicycle officers were added to our Vermillion Police Department bicycle patrol. The Vermillion Police Department now has a total of four IPMBA certified bicycle officers: Bryan Beringer, Tony Klunder, Mark Foley, and Jessica

Wade. IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association) training combines emergency vehicle operations, tactics, night operations, bicycle maintenance, and patrol procedures. Officers learn to ride off-road, up and down stairs, and practice vehicular cycling. Vehicular cycling means officers ride in a manner that is in accordance with the principles for driving in traffic. Annually, the entire department hosts a bike rodeo for the public. The bike rodeo is an opportunity for children to register their bicycles, get IDs made, get a helmet if they do not have one, and get an overall tune up of their bicycles. Children may also participate in a cone course, led by bicycle officers, which is an opportunity to learn bike safety.

The VPD bicycle officers were advantageous during Dakota Days this year. Each bicycle team was assigned a district this year for Dakota Days, and the teams maintained their districts, which was effective for responding to calls for service. The bicycle teams were well prepared with the special training each officer endured, cold weather gear, and most importantly, a proactive attitude. The VPD Bicycle Patrol



Officers are a good tool when it comes to patrolling areas where there have been reports of suspicious activity. Damage to property, vehicle tampering, and noise complaints are just a few examples of the types of calls in which bicycle officers' limited visibility can be beneficial while searching for suspects. VPD bicycle officers try to maintain relationships with the public and can often be seen handing out stickers or other prizes to children who are seen wearing a helmet on their own bicycles.

## **The Police Academy**

*By Lieutenant Luke Trowbridge*

As 2013 was a busy year implementing the Department's new field training program and training five new officers, we saw field training come to a close in January of 2014 with our final new officer. After field training was completed, new officers were then required to attend Law Enforcement Training or LET. Located in Pierre, LET is more commonly referred to as the Police Academy. It is the sole training academy in South Dakota for law enforcement officers. LET training sessions currently go on for 13 weeks. Each new officer who has not received prior academy training is required to attend a 13 week session. Upon completion at LET, the officers are then certified in South Dakota as a law enforcement officer. In 2014, four officers from our Department attended LET in Pierre with the first two graduating at the end of February and the final two officers completing their LET sessions at the end of May.

## Drug Recognition Expert

By Officer Jonathan Warner

The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program was developed in the 1970's by the Los Angeles Police Department in response to a growing awareness that many people arrested for impaired driving were under the influence of drugs rather than alcohol.

A DRE is a law enforcement officer specially trained to detect and evaluate individuals who are under the influence of drugs, whether or not these people are operating a motor vehicle. At the conclusion of the evaluation, Drug Recognition Experts are able to determine which drug category the individual has consumed. These Drug Recognition Experts are able to determine if a person is exhibiting signs of impairment or if the person has an underlying medical condition. Many substances can qualify as a drug. These substances may be *narcotics, alcohol, prescription pills, inhalants, and hallucinogens.*

In 2006, South Dakota Highway Patrol Drug Recognition Coordinator, Ryan Mechaley, brought the DRE Program to the State of South Dakota. Since then, the South Dakota Highway Patrol has been influential in assisting with the development of our local program. The cost of training, travel, and classroom materials were provided through the State from a federal grant.



In March 2014, the Vermillion Police Department sent Officer Jonathan Warner to Drug Recognition Expert Training School in Rapid City. The intensive two-week classroom training instructs officers on the clinical and physical indicators of impairment from drugs. As part of the training, the officers complete two "wet-labs" or alcohol workshops, where volunteer drinkers are dosed to specific blood alcohol levels. As the students perform evaluations of the volunteer drinkers, they look for both the physical and clinical indicators of impairment.

Upon completion of the two week course, Officer Warner attended a field certification process with the California Highway Patrol in Oakland, California. A minimum of 12 drug evaluations must be administered by each officer during this training week. Part of the evaluation process includes the collection of a urine or blood sample. Results of the collected samples are compared to the officer's findings during the evaluation process to confirm their observations and their ability to correctly identify the type(s) of substance(s) that have been ingested. The evaluating officer's opinion must maintain a minimum of a 75% accuracy rate with the blood/urinalysis results.

Officer Warner's completion of the Drug Recognition Expert training program brings a second Drug Recognition Expert to the Vermillion Police Department. Sergeant Jacy Nelsen completed the intensive training program and acquired her certification in early 2010. Presently, there are about 55 certified Drug Recognition Experts in the State of South Dakota.

To this date, a total of 13 drug impaired evaluations have been completed by the Vermillion Police Department. In addition, we have assisted other Drug Recognition Experts from surrounding agencies. A majority of the evaluations we have conducted to date have shown *cannabis, narcotics, stimulants, depressants and inhalants*.

Since the development of this program, we were able to assist officers with suspicious persons suspected of drug activity to identify they were under drug impairment rather than leaving the case unresolved. By identifying the individuals who have abused drugs, we are able to get them the necessary help with addiction they need through the legal system. Our program goals are to provide drug awareness education and reducing the number of drug related crimes, making the community safer.

### **A.L.I.C.E.**

*By Sergeant Ben Nelsen*

In 2014 Sgt Benjamin Nelsen took on the task of helping citizens react to, and increase their chances of surviving an active shooter event. Sgt Nelsen attended a program in the summer of 2013 called A.L.I.C.E., an acronym which stands for Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate. The program was originally created in 2001 by Greg Crane, a police officer in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. His wife was the principal of an area elementary school and he wanted to create a better system for helping keep teachers and students safe in the event a shooter came into the school. Over several years Crane developed A.L.I.C.E. and it is now used nationwide. Up until Crane developed A.L.I.C.E., the standard response done by teachers and students was to lock the door to the classroom (if possible), turn off the lights, huddle in a corner away from the door, and wait for police to arrive. This method, as demonstrated by the picture on the next page, is known as lockdown.



The goal of A.L.I.C.E. is to show that going into lockdown is not the only option, and may not be the best option.

In his presentation, Sgt Nelsen uses statistics compiled by the NYPD. The most recent stats cover all of the active shooting events which occurred around the world from 1966 until 2012. In that time, the US had 271 active shooting events occurring at many different kinds of locations, including schools, churches, office buildings, and malls. In those events, the shooter (usually a lone male) either committed suicide or was killed by police eighty-three percent of the time. Of those who were taken alive (16%), many were heard saying they wished they had killed more victims before apprehension. The shooter ran away from the scene less than one percent of the time. These statistics and comments show that the perpetrators of these heinous acts are not in their right minds. Most of them go into the situation with no intent of living through it. Thus, trying to talk a shooter down during the event is unlikely to succeed.



A.L.I.C.E. is a method of training people to respond to these catastrophic events in a manner that will improve their chance of survival. For more information or to have Sgt. Nelsen present to your group, please contact the Vermillion Police Department and ask to speak to Sgt. Nelsen.

### **Red Tag Nuisance Warning**

*By Lieutenant Luke Trowbridge*

Over the last year, the Department has sought to take proactive measures to help foster safe neighborhoods. We developed a procedure to utilize existing ordinances to help property owners, managers, residents, neighbors and neighborhoods where a variety of illegal activity may be taking place. We monitor different illegal activities to determine if they fall within the guidelines of City Ordinance [90.21](#), Aggravated Public Nuisance. Under this ordinance, certain activities and crimes can be combined to be considered as an Aggravated Public Nuisance. Once a property has been found with two or three violations, depending on the illegal activity, the property is subject to referral to the City Manager for consideration as an Aggravated Public Nuisance.

Our Department began utilizing this ordinance to assist neighborhoods with properties that have frequent incidences of disorderly conduct, assault, domestic violence, noise violations, illegal drugs and underage alcohol violations. As Patrol Officers respond to calls for service and learn illegal activity has taken place that meets the criteria of this ordinance, the officers notify the residents of the Red Tag Warning System. Following the incident, the residents and property owner and/or manager are notified with a formal



written warning notice that the illegal activity encountered by the Police Department met criteria of the Aggravated Public Nuisance ordinance. After nuisance warnings have been issued, subsequent incidents on the property could lead to a referral of incidences to the City Manager. Once a property has been referred, the property owner or manager is scheduled for a nuisance abatement conference with the City Manager for planning a solution to resolve issues on the property.

## Highway Safety Grant

*By Sgt Ben Nelsen*

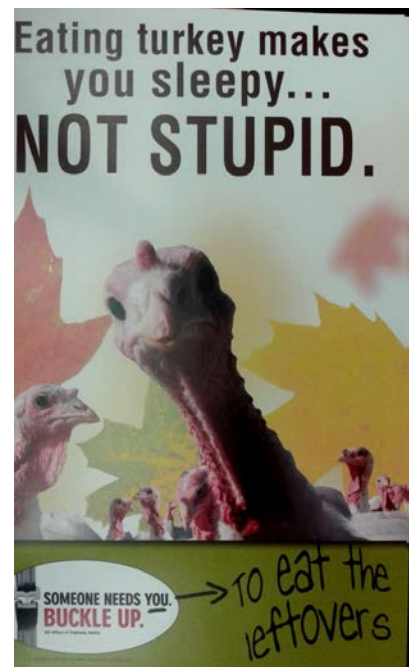
The Vermillion Police Department participated in a statewide traffic grant program through the South Dakota Department of Highway Safety. The grant focuses on having officers conduct extra patrol around the City of Vermillion in an effort to curb speeding, seatbelt violations, and driving under the influence (DUI). The ultimate goal of the grant is to reduce all kinds of accidents that stem from improper driving.

The grant refunds money to the City for a portion of officers' wages while working overtime. The grant was also used to help fund the purchase of a new LIDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) unit, a speed measuring tool, and two preliminary breath testers (PBTs).

When applying for the grant in 2013, we asked for a total of 120 hours of traffic grant overtime. The hours were spent between three large mobilizations, five smaller single day campaigns, and other anytime use hours throughout the year.

Seventy-two overtime hours were spent during the three large mobilizations which occurred during Christmas, Memorial Day and Labor Day and ran for about two weeks each. The Christmas and Labor Day mobilizations focused on DUI enforcement while the Memorial Day mobilization focused on seatbelt usage and coincided with the nationwide Click It or Ticket campaign. Twenty-four hours of overtime was used during each two week event.

Prior to each mobilization, officers put up signs around town, reminding people about the importance of finding a sober driver and wearing a seatbelt. Before the seatbelt event began, the police department partnered with the fire department to go to Vermillion schools and hand out fliers to remind parents and students about seatbelt use. A week



after that, officers and fire fighters went back and handed out rewards to drivers found wearing their seatbelts in an effort to encourage their use.

The five smaller campaigns occurred during Halloween, Thanksgiving (more than one day), Super Bowl, St. Patrick's Day, and Fourth of July. The VPD had to participate in four out of the five campaigns, and we worked all of them except the Fourth of July. A total of twenty-four hours were spent on the four campaigns. The remaining twenty-four hours were spent on various days throughout the year.

During the course of the year, police officers worked forty-six overtime shifts, earning a little over \$4,100.00 in overtime. In those shifts they made six DUI arrests, wrote a total of fifty-seven citations, and issued 145 warning tickets. Of the citations written, fourteen were for speeding and sixteen were for seatbelts. Of the warnings written, seventy-one were for speeding and two were for seatbelts.

### **Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) and Polar Plunge**

*By Officer Jonathan Cole*

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle. At its most basic level the Torch Run is an actual running event, in which officers and athletes run the Flame of Hope™ to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions and State and National Games. Annually, more than 85,000 dedicated compassionate volunteer law enforcement officers participate in the Torch Run. Thirty-five nations, 12 Canadian provinces and 50 US states raised more than \$50 million for local Special Olympics programs in 2013 and over \$500 million since its inception in 1981.



The man behind the first Torch Run in 1981 was Wichita, Kansas Police Chief Richard LaMunyon. He conceived the Torch Run as a way to involve local law enforcement personnel in the community and to support Special Olympics. The Torch Run was quickly adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and is now recognized as the founding law enforcement organization for the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics.

Today, the Torch Run is more than just a run and encompasses a variety of fundraising vehicles such as T-shirt and merchandise sales, special events to include polar

bear plunges, tip-a-cop and building sits and a host of other events that have local, state and national appeal. The Law Enforcement Torch Run transforms communities by inspiring people to open their minds, to accept and include people with intellectual disabilities, to celebrate differences among all people, and to recognize and respect the similarities we all share. For athletes and officers alike, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is a story of success, love, respect and commitment between law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes.

Vermillion Police Officer Jon Cole sits on the South Dakota LETR Executive Council as the Assistant Director and has played a very active role in the program. He has represented the City of Vermillion and the Vermillion Police Department in numerous events throughout the state to include: Polar Plunges, Tip-A-Cop, World's Largest Truck Convoy, and Torch Runs. Officer Cole also speaks and encourages involvement to new officers that attend Law Enforcement Training in Pierre.

Officer Cole has helped organize the Vermillion Polar Plunge which raises funds for local Vermillion Special Olympic Programs. The Polar Plunge is an event where money is raised and individuals jump into icy cold water during the winter months. Vermillion Police Department participated in this event where four officers plunged into the icy waters.

This past summer, Officer Cole was nominated to represent our department and our state law enforcement at the 2014 USA Special Olympic Summer Games in New Jersey. This opportunity is allowed to only one officer in each state. Officer Cole ran, carrying the Flame of Hope along with other law enforcement officers from across the country to the Special Olympic Games Opening Ceremonies.



In 2013, the South Dakota Law Enforcement Torch Run raised \$584,325 across the state for Special Olympics. Through the month of October, 2014 the program raised over \$625,000. In 2014 the South Dakota Torch Run received three awards for its outstanding dedication and progress.

Guardian Award: This award is sponsored by the LETR International Executive Council, as selected by Regional Coordinators, and is intended to highlight and recognize the outstanding contributions of Special Olympics Accredited Law Enforcement Torch Run Programs from around the world. To be nominated, the LETR program must exemplify the true meaning of the LETR mission and

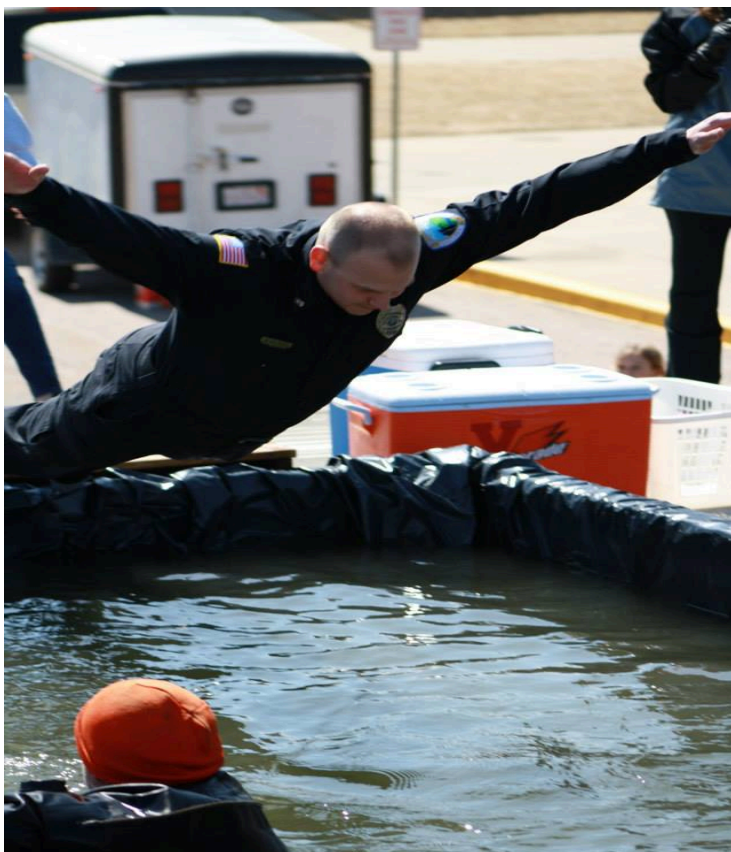
have responsibility guarding the Flame of Hope and all it represents. Further, the Program's involvement must demonstrate a substantive contribution to the LETR. The

focus of this award is to recognize a program's efforts not by revenue raised, but through the program's determination, motivation, and preservation of the LETR movement and the athletes we support. One program is selected, worldwide, for their achievements. South Dakota is the first program in the United States to receive this award.

**Emerald Level of Excellence Award:** This award is given to LETR programs for their fundraising efforts. This award is given to programs that raise a minimum of \$500,000 (less than \$750,000)

**Fourth Per Capita Award:** This award is given to the Top 5 "Per Capita" fundraising programs in the world. This is the fourth year in a row South Dakota has placed in the Top 5 "Per Capita".

This outstanding award winning program is continuing to grow and excel at its goal to raise awareness and help those with Intellectual Disabilities. Police officers are called during the worst times for people. This program allows officers to involve themselves with the public and others on a more positive encounter and to remind them the reason why they choose to serve. It also helps establish a positive connection with the community and good public relations for our department.



## Special Recognition



Captain Chad Passick has been a member of the Police Department since 1999 and served as a Communications Officer and a Clay County Jailer prior to that. He was promoted to Captain in 2004 and has been a fundamental member of the management team since then. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Award, which is awarded to those department members who have demonstrated a long term commitment to the department, usually 10 or more years, and during that service have continuously worked to improve the department and routinely work above and beyond what is required of them.



Lieutenant Crystal Brady has been a member of the department since 2000. She was promoted to Detective in 2004 and to Lieutenant in 2013. She is the head of the Investigative Division and a member of the management team. She was awarded the Meritorious Service Award, which is awarded to those department members who have demonstrated a long term commitment to the department, usually 10 or more years, and during that service have continuously worked to improve the department and routinely work above and beyond what is required of them.



Sergeant Jacy Nelsen has been with the department since 2007 and was promoted to Sergeant in 2011. Sgt. Nelsen is assigned to the Patrol Division. In 2014, Sgt. Nelsen attended training in Crisis Intervention Training. She brought this new method of dealing with people who are suffering from a mental issue back to the department. In conjunction with Yankton Police Department, she organized a week-long training program to training both agencies officers in this new method of communications. Future trainings are planned to insure all officers in both departments have this information and skills. She was awarded the Chief's Excellence Award, which is given to an employee who goes above and beyond and provides a substantial benefit to the organization.



Officer Isaac Voss has been with the department since 2012. Officer Voss has routinely demonstrated excellence in his work. He was selected to participate in the investigator training program in 2014, and worked with the investigative division for two months. Annually, the department's supervisors and managers meet and select one employee to be the Officer of the Year. This employee exemplifies the department's core values of Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Service and Teamwork (FIRST). In 2014, the supervisory/management staff unanimously selected Officer Voss as the Officer 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. Five years of statistics have been represented for these views. The table below lists the categories of CFS and the number received each year in each category. CFS stands for Calls For Service, and represents all efforts by Citizens to call for assistance.

<u>Description</u>	<u>CFS Year</u>				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
911-Other	293	280	282	301	300
Accident w/Injury	22	14	14	14	17
Accident w/out Injury	253	221	208	221	213
Alarm	65	53	49	69	75
Alcohol Incident (non-traffic)	125	81	78	56	97
Animal Complaint	124	125	136	152	110
Assault	44	39	44	52	39
Assist other Agency	93	82	70	81	86
Burglary	64	44	66	75	45
Check Welfare	104	115	158	169	199
Damage to Property	145	119	138	125	138
Death Investigation	1	3	1	3	8
Dispute Between Persons	75	156	146	165	157
Domestic Incident	75	99	107	107	116
Drug Related	21	25	27	31	45
Found Property	181	173	185	156	161
Fraud	30	45	45	57	61
Funeral Escort	11	8	15	7	17
Information Item	611	572	511	399	415
Juvenile Delinquency	6	14	11	12	10
Lost Property	67	68	53	75	71
Medical Incident	282	275	323	276	316
Mental Illness	8	11	16	15	26
Missing Person	19	36	24	37	22
Noise Complaint	120	158	147	125	134
Public Disorder	85	63	88	64	90
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0
Sex Crimes	7	12	9	14	15
Suspicious Activity	197	235	278	319	357
Theft	231	223	200	209	232
Traffic Incident	3,198	1,898	2,347	2,092	2,958
Transport	1	2	1	1	1
Violation of Court Order	10	8	12	20	28
Wanted Person	22	21	18	30	20
Weapons Related Incident	4	1	6	4	5

**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).

<u>State Reporting Code</u>		<u>Incident Start Year</u>			
		2011	2012	2013	2014
100	Kidnapping/Abduction	1	1	0	0
11A	Forcible Rape	8	4	6	4
11D	Forcible Fondling	5	8	7	9
120	Robbery	0	1	0	2
13A	Aggravated Assault	16	23	26	21
13B	Simple Assault	97	96	77	84
13C	Intimidation	20	30	27	11
200	Arson	3	0	0	0
220	Burglary/Breaking and Entry	29	33	20	28
23A	Larceny/Theft	2	1	0	2
23B	Purse-snatching	3	1	1	0
23C	Shoplifting	14	26	22	24
23D	Theft from Building	36	40	38	46
23F	Theft from Motor Vehicle	33	54	49	36
23G	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	5	7	3	8
23H	Other Larceny	99	97	113	95
240	Motor Vehicle Theft	18	10	4	12
250	Counterfeiting/Forgery	16	23	17	19
26A	Fraud/Swindle,False Statement	1	1	0	0
26C	Fraud/Impress.	1	0	1	0
270	Embezzlement	0	0	1	0
280	Stolen Property Offenses	6	0	0	0
290	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	98	140	101	103
35A	Drug/Narcotic Violation	107	128	84	89
35B	Drug Equipment Violation	42	47	25	37
36A	Incest	0	0	0	1
36B	Statutory Rape	1	2	3	1
370	Obscene material	0	1	3	2
40B	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	1	0	0	0
520	Weapons Law Violation	3	6	0	1
90A	Bad Checks	7	0	0	1
90C	Disorderly Conduct	130	196	133	134
90D	Driving Under the Influence	95	127	38	74
90F	Family Offenses/Nonviolent	4	3	6	6
90G	Liquor Law Violation	207	244	146	206
90H	Peeping Tom	1	3	0	0
90I	Runaway	9	2	6	2
90J	Trespass on real property	27	36	27	32
90Z	All Other Offenses	164	145	151	115



*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.

Forward to Other Agency: These are cases 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>Incident Start Year</u>				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Closed - Charges Filed	1,611	865	894	812	911
Closed - Prosecution Declined	67	40	57	46	43
Closed - Resolved	4,265	3,662	4,132	4,132	4,894
Closed - Unresolved	648	613	609	500	585
Forward to Investigations	38	122	161	168	193
Forward to Other Agency	106	125	96	69	49
Under Investigation	13	14	33	3	26
Under Prosecutor Review	9	23	44	9	45

In 2014, 221 cases were referred to or initiated by 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>Incident Start Year</u>				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Case Incorrectly Opened	2	0	0	0	0
Closed - Charges Filed	21	25	44	28	36
Closed - Prosecution Declined	5	6	9	7	6
Closed - Resolved	25	60	67	73	77
Closed - Unresolved	13	23	24	28	37
Forward to Investigations	0	1	0	1	1
Forward to Other Agency	3	7	36	29	25
Under Investigation	2	1	7	16	28
Under Prosecutor Review	0	2	2	18	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>221</b>

## Budget vs. Actual Expenditures

The following Table provides a financial picture of the department's expenditures during 2014. The total cost for the Police Department in 2014 was \$1,619,794.51, which represents 96.14% of the total budgeted in 2014.

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Budget	1,689,118.00	1,689,118.00	1,689,118.00	1,689,118.00	1,689,118.00	1,689,118.00
Monthly Exp. - Admin	32,257.14	29,212.11	30,016.36	31,707.34	32,624.31	43,808.40
Monthly Exp. - Patrol	99,483.69	87,962.39	87,402.56	95,457.28	90,455.41	87,967.74
Dept. Monthly Expenses	131,740.83	117,174.50	117,418.92	127,164.62	123,079.72	131,776.14
YTD Expenses	\$131,740.83	\$248,915.33	\$366,334.25	\$493,498.87	\$616,578.59	\$748,354.73
% of Year	8.33%	16.67%	25.00%	33.33%	41.67%	50.00%
% Expended	7.80%	14.74%	21.69%	29.22%	36.50%	44.30%

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Budget	\$1,689,118.00	\$1,689,118.00	\$1,684,839.00	\$1,684,839.00	\$1,684,839.00	\$1,684,839.00
Monthly Exp. - Admin	\$33,993.25	\$34,184.84	\$36,198.27	\$28,669.88	\$37,900.77	\$45,025.00
Monthly Exp. - Patrol	\$93,079.15	\$126,976.17	\$94,021.02	\$109,242.38	\$87,238.12	\$137,428.65
Dept. Monthly Expenses	\$121,091.72	\$169,879.08	\$127,447.19	\$140,226.52	\$127,600.99	\$185,194.28
YTD Expenses	\$869,446.45	\$1,039,325.53	\$1,166,772.72	\$1,306,999.24	\$1,434,600.23	\$1,619,794.51
% of Year	58.33%	66.67%	75.00%	83.33%	91.67%	100.00%
% Expended	51.47%	61.53%	69.25%	77.57%	85.15%	96.14%