



OZARK POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Chief Justin Arnold
City Administrator Eric Johnson
Mayor Don Currence
201 E Brick Street

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The Ozark Police Department remains dedicated to fostering a safe and secure community through proactive law enforcement and strong community partnerships. As a trusted pillar of public safety, we continue to uphold our mission of protecting and serving the residents of Ozark with professionalism and integrity. Covering 12.42 square miles, our department is committed to addressing the evolving needs of our growing city, and ensuring that every neighborhood receives the highest level of service. Through innovation, collaboration, and a forward-thinking approach, we strive to enhance public safety and strengthen the trust between our officers and the community we proudly serve.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Ozark Police Department is to build a true partnership with our community, enhance the quality of life in our city, maintain order, and protect those we serve by reducing crime. We are committed to upholding professionalism, honor, and integrity in all that we do. We strive to preserve the peace and safety of our citizens by enforcing federal, state, and local laws. Our goal is to safeguard the rights of all individuals with minimal disruption to their daily lives while setting the standard in law enforcement.

CONTACT US

Physical Address:

201 E. Brick Street
Ozark, MO 65721

Phone: 417-581-6600

Fax: 417-581-8804

Emergency Line: 911

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY

We are committed to candor, honesty, & ethical behavior with each other and those we serve.

PUBLIC SERVICE

We deliver to the public, high-quality service that is fair, courteous, responsive & efficient. We recognize the importance of working with the community to create a secure & safe environment.

COMPETENCE

We uphold high standards of training and expertise while staying informed of the latest trends and best practices in law enforcement.

RESPONSIBILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

We use our resources effectively and foster open communication within our community. We take responsibility for our actions, acknowledge our mistakes, and continually work to earn the trust and support of those we serve.

RESPECT FOR CO-WORKERS

We foster a workplace environment built on mutual respect, valuing the unique qualities of each individual who contributes to the success of our team.

A MESSAGE FROM COMMAND



I am honored to lead the bright and hard-working men and women of the Ozark Police Department as your Police Chief. On behalf of our department, I am proud to present the 2024 Annual Report. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about your police department.

In 2024, we continued to seize opportunities to engage with our citizens and strengthen partnerships throughout the city. Every day, we strive to be exceptional servants to our community and take a forward-thinking approach to addressing challenges. Thanks to our dedicated police staff and strong community partnerships, we saw a reduction in most crime categories and a decrease in overall calls for service. This reduction allowed officers to focus on proactive patrols in neighborhoods and business districts and respond to crimes more efficiently—key factors in keeping crime rates low.

Organizationally, we implemented new hiring processes for police recruits, creating a clear pathway to becoming Ozark police officers. Our Traffic Unit deployed Harley-Davidson motorcycles as an effective tool in enhancing traffic safety. Additionally, we completed a much-needed remodel of our police facility, expanding the building footprint to improve internal efficiencies.

Having served with the Ozark Police Department for nearly 20 years, I am confident the men and women I serve alongside are among the best in the law enforcement profession. Our exceptional team of officers and support staff work tirelessly to make a positive impact on our community and enhance the quality of life for our citizens. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and remain committed to protecting and supporting the people of Ozark.

-Justin Arnold, Chief of Police

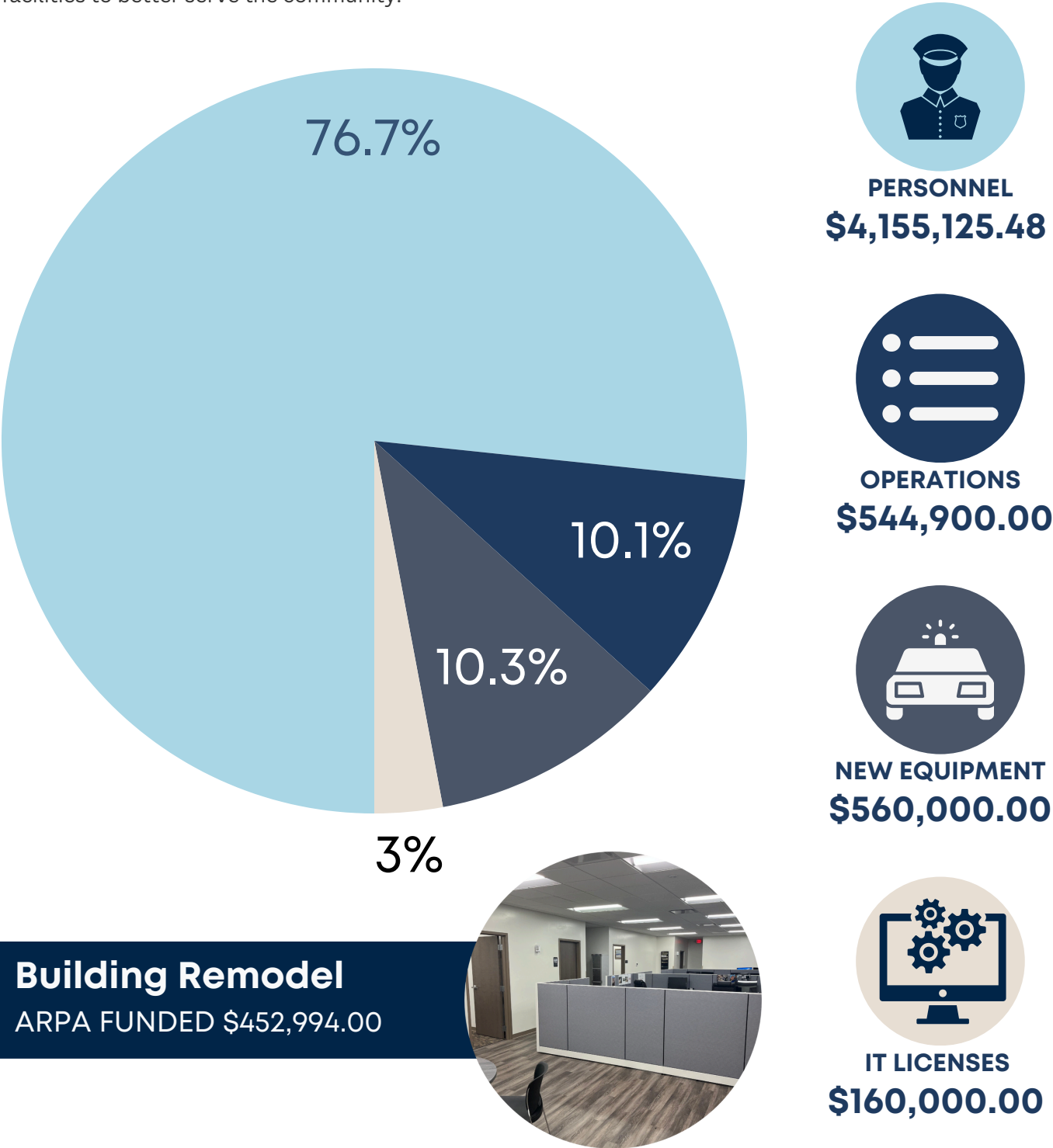
The Ozark Police Department continually strives to provide the highest level of quality in the service it provides to the community and its guests. Staff members employ professional policing techniques and strategies that are fair, courteous, responsive and efficient. The Ozark Police Department is proud of its accreditation through the Missouri Police Chiefs Charitable Foundation, which guides our actions to meet nationally recognized best practices and standards in modern policing. The Ozark Police Department is excited about the opportunities in 2025 to work in partnership with the community to enhance the quality of life in our city.

Captain Derek Hill, Deputy Chief of Police

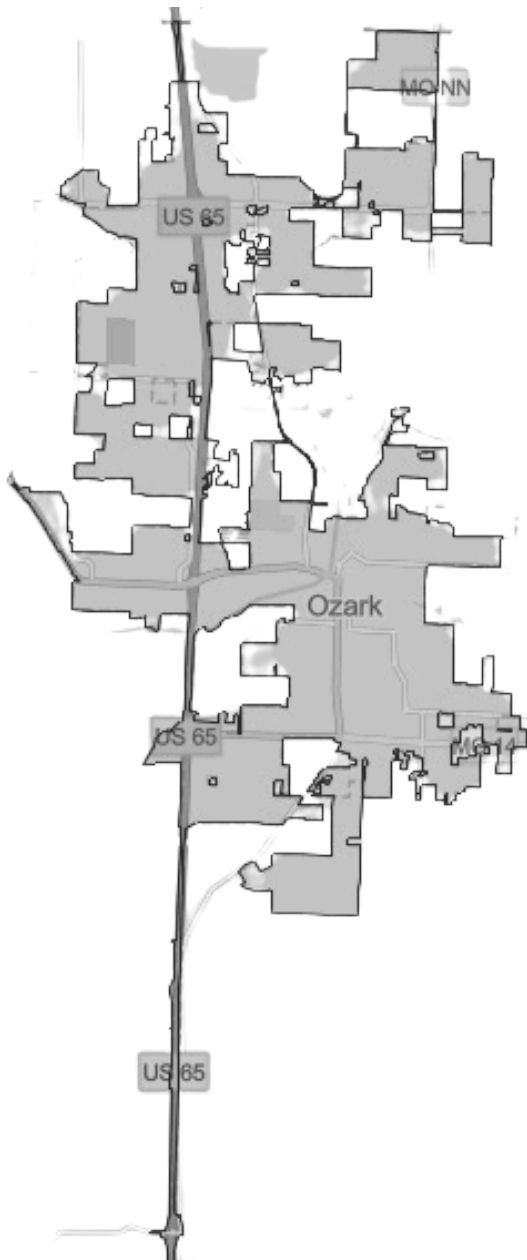


ANNUAL BUDGET

The Ozark Police Department’s budget was strategically allocated to ensure efficient operations, officer support, and technological advancements. In 2024, funding was distributed across key areas to maintain public safety and enhance department capabilities. A majority of the budget was dedicated to personnel costs, reflecting the department’s commitment to recruiting, training, and retaining skilled officers. Operational expenses ensured the department remained fully functional, covering essential resources and infrastructure. Investments in new equipment and IT licenses supported modern policing efforts, enhancing efficiency and security. Additionally, ARPA funds were allocated for a building remodel, further improving department facilities to better serve the community.



OUR REACH, OUR IMPACT



WHERE WE SERVE

The Ozark Police Department has jurisdiction within the city limits of Ozark, Missouri, covering an area of approximately 12.42 square miles. OPD is responsible for enforcing local, state, and federal laws, ensuring public safety, and providing emergency response services to residents, businesses, and visitors.

While OPD's primary jurisdiction is within Ozark city limits, officers may collaborate with the Christian County Sheriff's Office, Missouri State Highway Patrol, and other regional agencies when necessary for mutual aid or cases extending beyond city boundaries.

WHAT WE DO



TRAFFIC STOPS
7,731



ARRESTS
980



CALLS FOR SERVICE
19,894



MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES
852

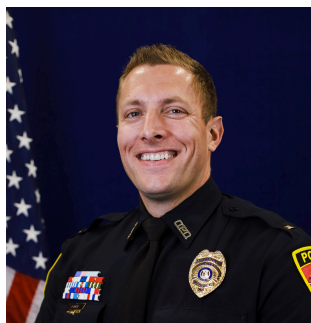


OUR TEAM

DIVISION BREAKDOWN

FIELD SERVICES

Lt. Jared Drye
*Field Services
Commander*



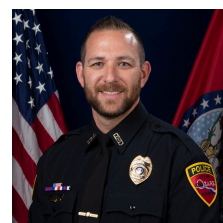
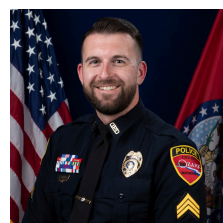
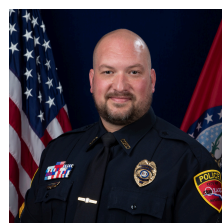
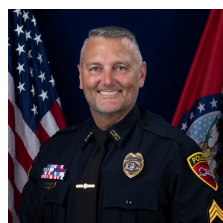
Sgt. T. Isbell

Sgt. N. Lewis

Sgt. T. Spencer

Sgt. C. Turner

Cpl. T. Cole



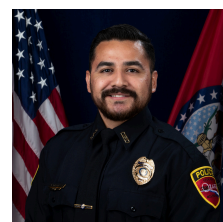
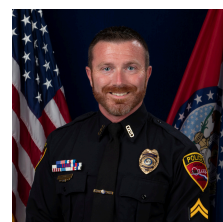
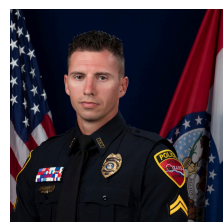
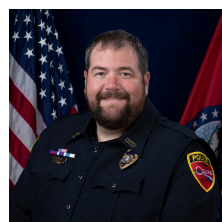
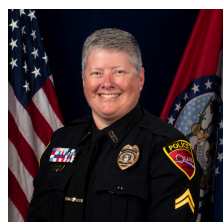
Cpl. S. Jackson

Cpl. B. Leslie

Cpl. G. O'Neil

Cpl. B. Soules

Officer M. Cabrales



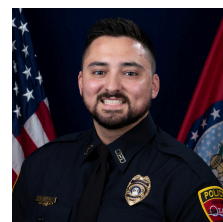
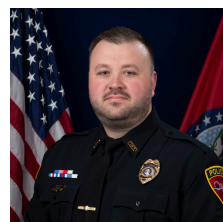
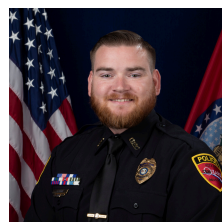
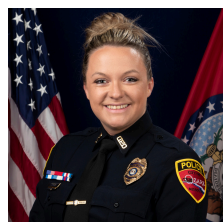
Officer J. Conner

Officer J. Crim

Officer B. Cook

Officer B. Greble

Officer D. Inlow



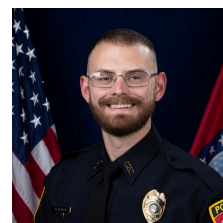
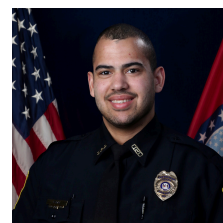
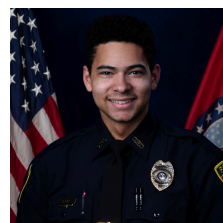
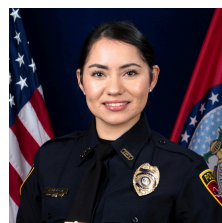
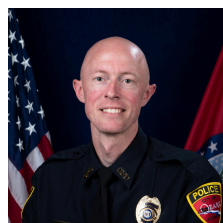
Officer D. Johnson

Officer J. Ramirez

Officer B. Ray

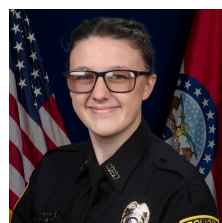
Officer F. Ray

Officer M. Rodgers



Officer B. Tyler

Officer K. Weaver



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Lt. Ben Deutscher
Special Operations
Commander



Sgt. D. Bright

Sgt. T. Wade

Detective S. Conner

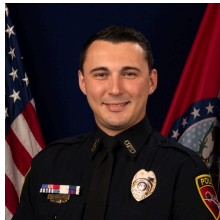
Detective A. Ponder

K9 Officer T. Gilmore



K9 Officer J. Watson

Officer T. Richardson



SUPPORT SERVICES

Lt. Matt Jones
Support Services
Commander



Cpl. K. Prince

B. Appleton

S. Choate

S. Corvey-Gonzalez

A. Custer



SUPPORT SERVICES
SUPERVISOR

EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN

CANINE CONTROL
OFFICER

POLICE CLERK

J. Dye



POLICE CLERK

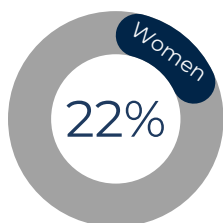
DEMOGRAPHICS BREAKDOWN

YEARS OF SERVICE

The Ozark Police Department maintains a strong balance of experienced leadership and new recruits. With 32% of staff serving 15+ years, veteran officers provide stability and mentorship, while the 32% with 0-4 years highlight ongoing growth and recruitment efforts. This mix ensures effective policing, leadership development, and long-term success in serving the community.



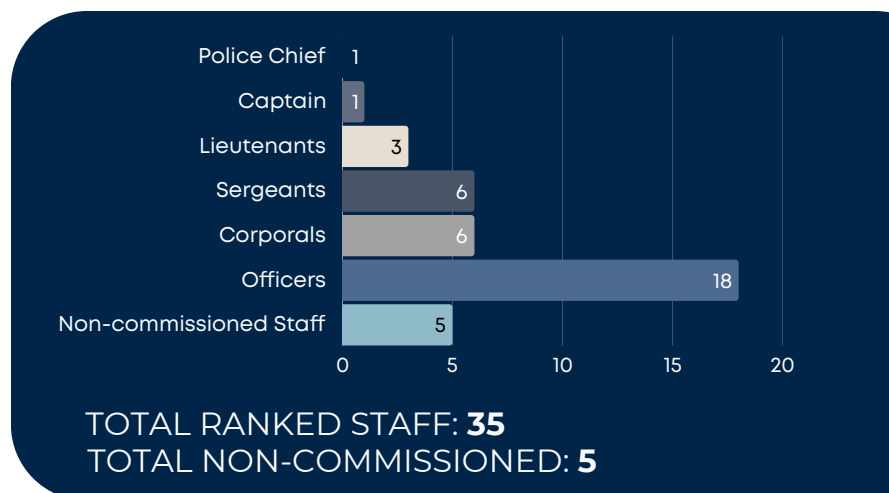
GENDER REPRESENTATION



The Ozark Police Department is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce. Currently, 31 male staff members and 9 female staff members serve in various roles, contributing to the department's mission of public safety and community engagement. Women made up 22% of the PD's workforce in 2024.

RANK DISTRIBUTION

The department is led by a chief and a captain, supported by three lieutenants, who oversee operations. Below them, six sergeants and six corporals provide leadership and supervision to the 18 officers, which include those assigned to specialized units such as the K9, Traffic and Criminal Investigations. This structured hierarchy ensures effective law enforcement and community safety across Ozark.



FIELD SERVICES

OUR MOST VISIBLE DIVISION

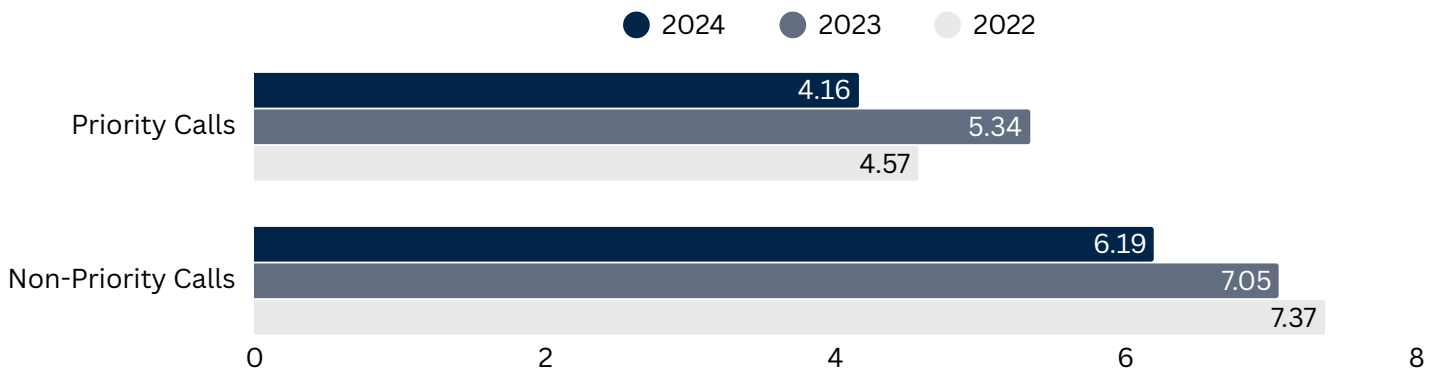


The Field Services Division of the Ozark Police Department, often known as uniformed patrol, acts as the most visible face of the department within the community. This division is tasked with responding to service calls from residents, employing proactive policing strategies, and ensuring the enforcement of traffic regulations across the City of Ozark.

**The Ozark Police Department provides services 24 hours a day, seven(7) days a week, and 365 days a year.*

HOW QUICKLY DO WE RESPOND TO CALLS FOR SERVICE?

The response times of the Ozark Police Department can vary depending on the nature and urgency of the situation. In general, we strive to respond to emergency situations as quickly as possible, with a priority of ensuring the safety of both the responding officers and the community. The table shows response times over the last three years.



PROACTIVE POLICING VS. REACTIVE POLICING

Aspect	Proactive Policing	Reactive Policing
Approach	Prevents crime before it happens	Responds after crime occurs
Focus	Community engagement & deterrence	Emergency response & investigations
Benefits	Reduces crime, builds trust	Handles crimes effectively after they happen
Challenges	Resource-intensive	Doesn't prevent crime, can strain resources

DIVISION BREAKDOWN

THREE PATROL SHIFTS COMPRISED OF:

- 3 Sergeants
- 6 Corporals
- 14 Police Officers

SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Criminal Investigations Unit is tasked with investigating crimes against individuals and property, primarily focusing on the most severe crimes reported to the Ozark Police Department. The detectives also provide support to the Field Services Division in terms of crime scene processing, criminal intelligence evaluation, and other cases such as missing persons investigations. .

IN 2024, DETECTIVES REVIEWED AND ASSISTED IN 838 NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM CASES, CONDUCTING 144 FELONY INVESTIGATIONS.

BREAKDOWN OF NIBRS OFFENSES REVIEWED OR INVESTIGATED BY OPD:



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS(UAS) | DRONE UNIT

The Ozark Police Department's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Unit enhances public safety with specialized imaging and aerial support. Operated by four FAA-licensed officers, it assists in missing persons cases, high-risk operations, crime scene investigations, evidence recovery, and traffic impact analysis. The UAS Unit cannot operate in areas with an expectation of privacy, conduct routine surveillance, or enforce traffic laws.

The Drone Unit was deployed 33 times this year for:

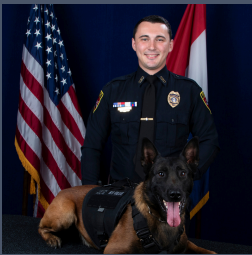
- Fleeing Suspects: 8
- Barricaded Suspects: 1
- Public Demonstrations: 4
- Traffic Impact Analysis: 2
- Special Events Observations: 4
- Weather Damage Assessment: 1
- House Fire: 1
- Training: 4
- Suicidal Subject: 2
- Missing Person: 3
- Agency Assist: 3

K9 UNIT

The Ozark Police Department is staffed with two police service dog teams specializing in narcotics detection, apprehension, tracking, and article recovery. K9 Ollie is partnered with Officer Jeremy Watson, and K9 Dex is partnered with Officer Tanner Gilmore. In 2024, OPD K9 teams had **314** deployments.



K9 Dex & Officer Gilmore



K9 Ollie & Officer Watson

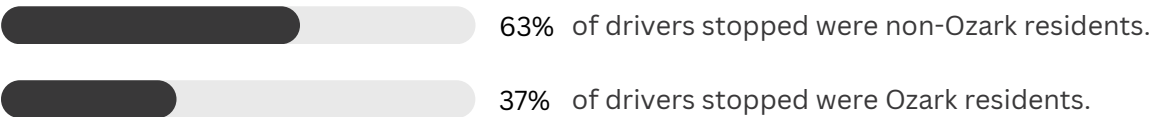


TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

The Traffic Enforcement Unit, part of the Ozark Police Department's Special Operations Division, is dedicated to improving roadway safety in Ozark. This specialized team focuses on investigating and preventing motor vehicle crashes, addressing traffic hazards, planning for traffic impacts, identifying impaired drivers, and enforcing traffic laws to keep the community safe.

THE OZARK POLICE DEPARTMENT STOPPED A TOTAL OF 7,731 VEHICLES IN 2024.

BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL STOPS:



COMMON REASONS FOR TRAFFIC STOPS:



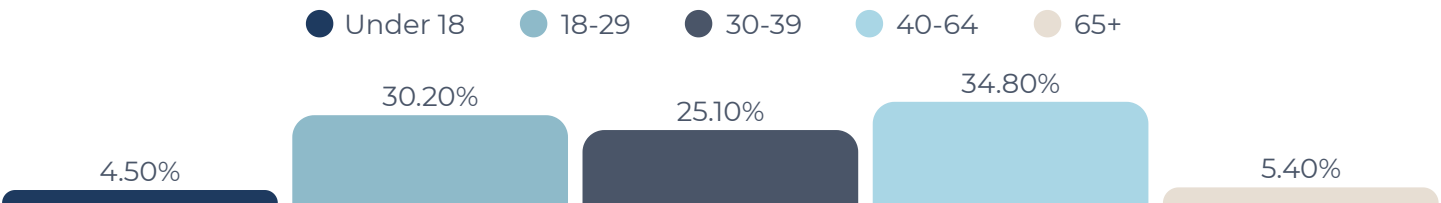
TRAFFIC STOPS BY LOCATION

Over half—55.2%—of all traffic stops occurred on city streets, signaling a continued focus on enforcing road safety measures where vehicle and foot traffic are most concentrated.



DRIVER'S AGE BREAKDOWN

The data shows that most traffic stops involved drivers aged 18-64, with the highest percentage in the 40-64 range. This trend reflects typical driving patterns, with working-age drivers making up the majority of road traffic.



DID YOU KNOW?

79.9% of all traffic stops resulted in a warning, highlighting the department's focus on education.
(15.457% Citation, 5.730% Arrest)

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The Support Services Division of the Ozark Police Department plays a crucial role in ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of various essential functions within the department. This division oversees key units—including the Canine Control Unit, Training Unit, Records Unit, and Property & Evidence Unit—coordinating vital law enforcement operations.

TRAINING UNIT

The Ozark Police Department's Training Unit is committed to obtaining the best possible continuing education and training for our personnel. Ozark Police Department staff received 4,726 hours of training in 2024. Corporal Kyle Prince is responsible for the oversight, implementation and management of the department's training efforts.



THE FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF OUR STAFF'S 2024 TRAINING HOURS:

- MO POST Training Hours: 1,740
 - These training hours included interpersonal, technical, legal, skill, and required electives.
- In-house Training Hours: 2,985



RECORDS UNIT | PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

The Records Unit provides customer service to citizens conducting business at the Ozark Police Department. Clerks of the Records Unit are responsible for all reports generated by the Ozark Police Department and are the central repository for all police documents. These documents include citations, offense reports, vehicular accident reports, tow reports, and additional reports completed by patrol and investigative officers. Clerks provide administrative support to sworn staff and play a vital role in compiling and reporting statistical data to state and federal record information databases. The Property & Evidence Unit is responsible for maintaining the integrity and safe custody of all evidentiary items and property submitted by the Ozark Police Department. The Records Unit and Property & Evidence Unit consist of a Support Services Supervisor, three (3) Police Clerks, and one (1) Evidence Technician. **The Records Unit processed 2,355 Incident Reports, 1,195 Traffic Citations and 228 Criminal Citations in 2024.**



1,893 — PIECES OF EVIDENCE DISPOSED OF BY POLICE

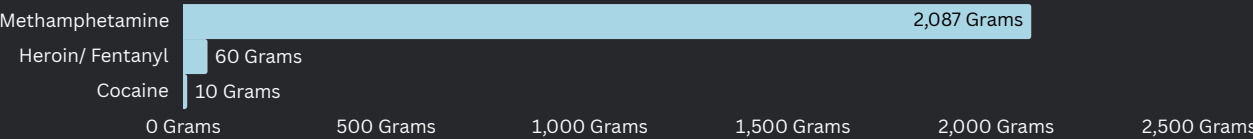


1,080 — PIECES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN IN BY POLICE



209 — PIECES OF DRUG-RELATED EVIDENCE

DRUG SEIZURE AMOUNTS



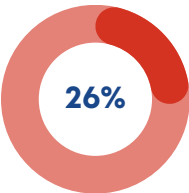
2,973
PIECES OF EVIDENCE
PROCESSED IN 2024

CANINE CONTROL UNIT



Ozark Canine Control Officer Sarah Corvey-Gonzalez is responsible for enforcing local animal control laws and regulations. Our canine control officer is tasked with responding to reports of stray or dangerous dogs, investigating animal cruelty cases, and ensuring pet owners comply with licensing and vaccination requirements. This officer receives ongoing training and is certified by the National Animal Control Association. If you lose your dog, you must provide proof of ownership, a current rabies vaccination, and a city pet license to claim or pick up your pet.

887 TOTAL CANINE-RELATED CALLS IN 2024



Increase since 2023



CANINE CALLS BY THE NUMBERS:

11
DOG BITES

8
DOG LOOSE

868
OTHER OFFENSE

OZARK'S CANINE CONTROL OFFICER HAS A STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR AND SAFETY PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION & CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS.

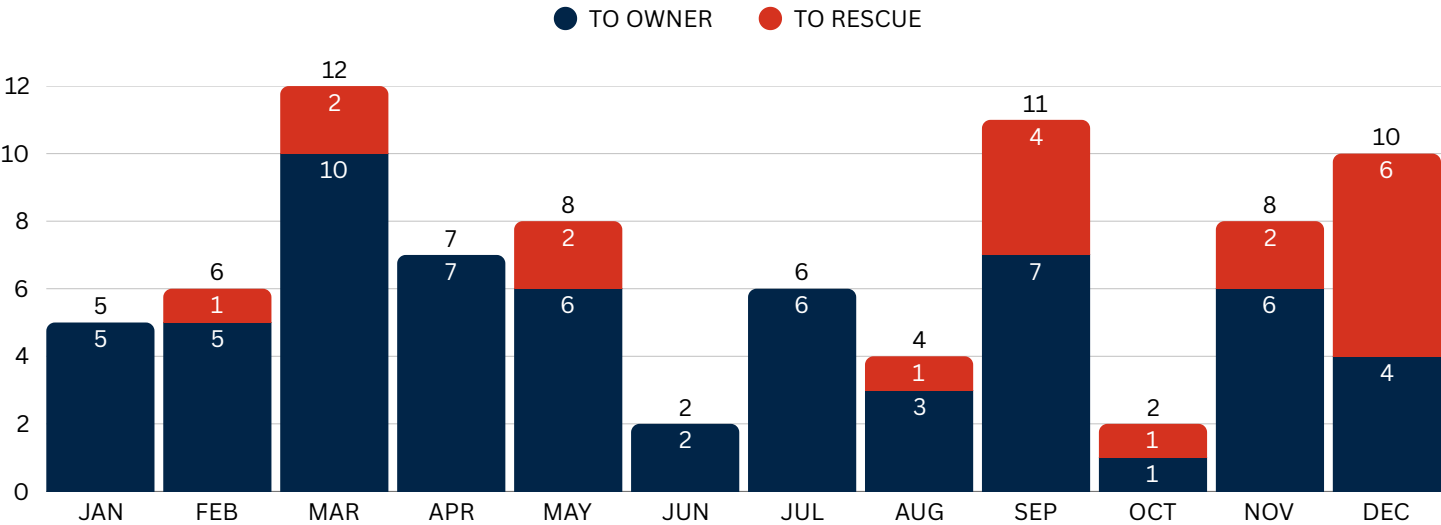
62
RELEASED TO RESCUE

Canine Control works closely with local shelters and rescue organizations to help place dogs in need of homes.

19
RELEASED TO OWNER

Overall, Ozark's Canine Control officer plays a vital role in protecting both animals and the community at large. Ozark Canine Control is not licensed to adopt, so please only contact our office for release if you are the animal's owner or know the animal's owner. Our Canine Control facility is licensed through the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

81
TOTAL CANINES



2024 AWARDS

OFFICER OF THE YEAR- OFFICER THOMAS RICHARDSON



Officer Thomas Richardson has been employed with the Ozark Police Department since May 2021 and currently serves as a Traffic Enforcement Officer in the Special Operations Division. His daily work is focused on improving roadway safety throughout the City of Ozark, enforcing motor vehicle laws, and drawing attention to special traffic safety concerns. Officer Richardson has led our department in DWI investigations for the past two years and serves as an instructor for impaired driving education. His positive attitude and focus on teamwork are contagious around the department, and he is always looking for different ways to serve the community and his co-workers. His diligence in improving roadway safety has without a doubt made a positive impact for the citizens of Ozark. In 2024, Officer Richardson participated in many community outreach opportunities, including:

- Hero in Training – Youth Training Program
- Showcase Ozark
- Operation Giving & Operation Hope – Meal deliveries to senior citizens in Ozark
- Cops for Kids
- Meal service at the Ozark Senior Center
- Friday Night Lights

OTHER DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

CHIEF'S AWARD:

- Sergeant Trevor Spencer
- Detective Stephen Conner
- Evidence Technician Sue Choate

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE:

- Sergeant Tommy Wade
- Sergeant Trevor Spencer
- Sergeant David Bright
- Corporal Greg O'Neil
- Officer Bryan Tyler
- Officer Jonah Crim
- Officer Jeremy Watson
- Officer Tanner Gilmore
- Officer Jennyfer Ramirez
- Officer Brennan Greble

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENDATION:

- Detective Austin Ponder
- Officer Dakota Inlow
- Officer Jonah Crim
- Canine Control Officer Sarah Corvey- Gonzalez

LIFE-SAVING:

- Sergeant Nathan Lewis
- Corporal Brett Leslie
- Officer Jessica Conner

UNIT COMMENDATION:

- Sergeant Tommy Wade
- Sergeant Nathan Lewis
- Sergeant Trevor Spencer
- Sergeant Cory Turner
- Corporal Shonda Jackson
- Corporal Bryant Soules
- Corporal Greg O'Neil
- Detective Austin Ponder
- Officer Bryan Tyler
- Officer Jonah Crim
- Officer Jeremy Watson
- Officer Tanner Gilmore
- Officer Ben Cook
- Officer Brennan Greble
- Officer Dakota Inlow
- Officer Marco Cabrales
- Officer Micah Rodgers
- Officer Kaylee Weaver

MERITORIOUS SERVICE:

- Officer Tanner Gilmore

HONORABLE SERVICE:

- Lieutenant Ben Deutscher
- Sergeant Cory Turner
- Corporal Shonda Jackson
- Corporal Brett Leslie
- Officer Jennyfer Ramirez

PROMOTIONS:

- Sergeant David Bright
- Sergeant Cory Turner
- Corporal Brett Leslie

RETIREMENTS:

- Sergeant Truman Isbell

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



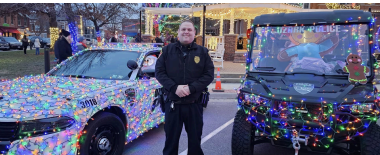
HERO IN TRAINING

Our young detectives put their skills to the test—investigating a crime scene, analyzing fingerprints, watching K9 Ollie and K9 Dex in action, and observing a drone demo. And, of course, there was pizza! Huge thanks to our amazing volunteers—we couldn't have done it without you!



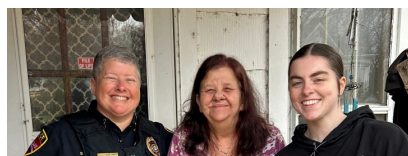
COPS FOR KIDS

The Ozark Police Department and the Christian County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Walmart in Ozark for the Cops for Kids event, taking 131 local children on a \$100 shopping spree. Funded by local donations, the Ozark Police Officers Association, and partner organizations, the event helps foster community connections and spread holiday cheer.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

The Ozark Police Department is proud to win Best Decorated First Responder Vehicle at Friday Night Lights for the second year in a row! Thanks to our team for their creativity and to the event organizers for another fun community event.



OPERATION HOPE: MEALS ON WHEELS

During Christmas and Thanksgiving, the Ozark Police Department proudly partners with Operation Hope: Meals on Wheels to deliver food and holiday cheer to those in need. Thanks to the Utopia Club, Apple Market, the Ozark Police Officers Association, and the Christian County Deputy Sheriffs Association for making this initiative possible!



OZARK SENIOR CENTER: MEAL SERVICE

The Ozark Police Department serves meals at the Ozark Senior Center for several holidays and events throughout the year, including:

- Christmas
- Thanksgiving
- Veterans Day



OZARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOIN THE TEAM

Our neighborhood is your neighborhood.

Investing in Excellence

The Ozark PD is excited to help you achieve your dreams! Options are available to cover academy tuition.

Get paid while attending the academy and securing your spot as an Ozark police officer.

The Academy starts in June

Paid Academy Training: Earn \$19.28/hour as a police recruit.

Benefits: Paid retirement, health & dental insurance, vacation, sick leave, and holiday pay.

Education Benefits: Earn up to \$3,120 annually through the educational achievement incentive program and up to \$2,500 through tuition reimbursement.

Already a Police Officer?

Starting Hourly Wage: \$24.24- \$26.51 **Based on experience*



CONNECT WITH US!

CPL. KYLE PRINCE
417-581-6600
K.PRINCE@OZARKPD.ORG

APPLY TODAY ➔

**SCAN
ME!**

