

Rockingham Police Department 2025 Annual Report



Presented by:

Chief George Gillenwater

Chief George C. Gillenwater

Message from the Chief

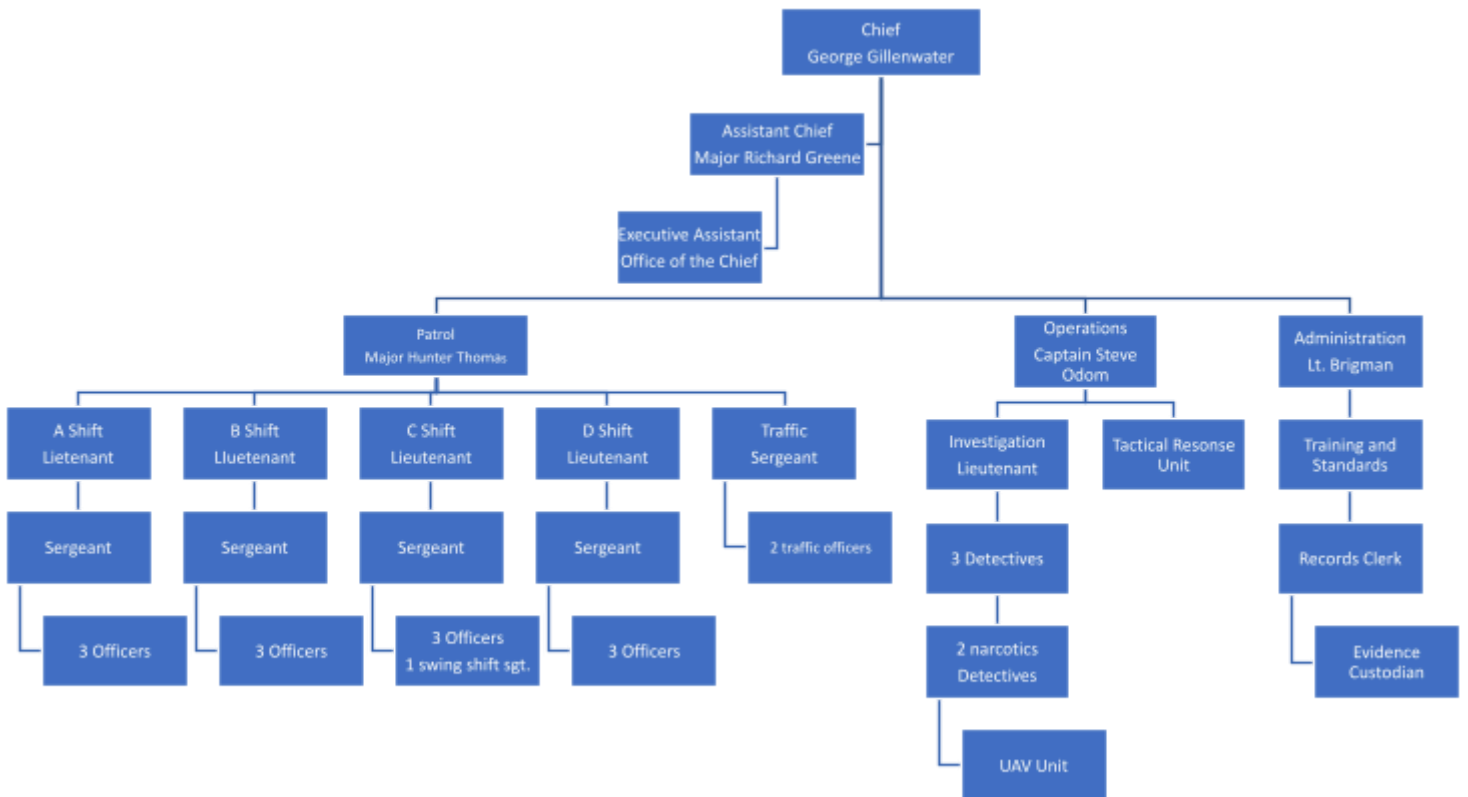
On behalf of the staff of the Rockingham Police Department, it is a pleasure to publish our 2025 Annual Report. This report serves as a summary of the activities of the Rockingham Police Department for the 2025 calendar year, highlighting our commitment to professionalism, transparent policing initiatives, achievements, and public data. I am proud to say that our department remains fully staffed as we have continued to focus on hiring and developing the most qualified individuals. We have remained committed to a retention plan that embraces developing young officers through an extensive training program and encouraging them to take part in vast education opportunities. We have also focused a great deal of attention on our veteran officers, providing them with opportunities for advanced training and education, which will prepare them for promotion in the coming years.

Just like the prior year we have remained near full, to full capacity, the entire year, which has been great for morale and has also allowed us to continue focusing on saturation patrol techniques and identifying areas of need for our community. We remain determined to be at the forefront of policing techniques, provide our officers with state-of-the-art equipment, and more importantly provide our citizens with uncompromising service.

George C. Gillenwater



Rockingham Police Department Organizational Structure



The Rockingham Police Department is a Risk Management Accredited Agency through the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Organizational Breakdown

Patrol

Major Thomas leads the Patrol Division. The patrol division is comprised of twenty-one uniformed officers assigned to 4 squads each consisting of 5 officers. Each squad has a Lieutenant who supervises with the assistance of a Sergeant. Patrol answers all 911 calls, conducts proactive patrols to combat crime, and actively participates in community policing events. In addition to the uniformed patrol squads, there is a specialized traffic unit supervised by Sergeant McCaskill consisting of three uniformed officers. This specialized unit handles most accident reports in the city as well as enforcing NC traffic laws. Major Thomas also manages fleet management, parade permits, taxi permits, wrecker rotation, initial officer compliments and complaints and special events for the department.

Operations

Captain Odom provides administrative oversight, leadership, and overall management to the operations division. The Criminal Investigations Division is sub-divided into specialized units. General Crime Unit detectives investigate a variety of crime to include crimes against persons, property crimes, fraud, sexual assaults, and homicide. The Vice/Narcotics Unit is a covert technical group of detectives who conduct narcotics and vice investigations. In addition to these specialized units, Captain Odom oversees the management of both the department's UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) team and the department's Tactical Response Unit.

Administration

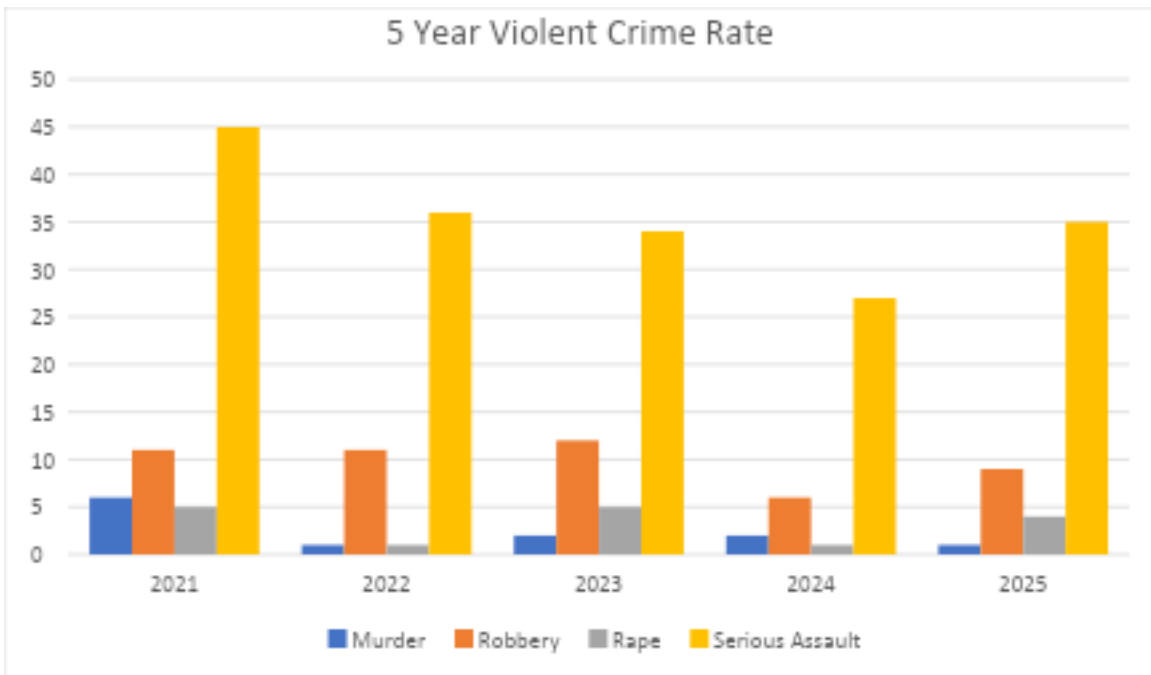
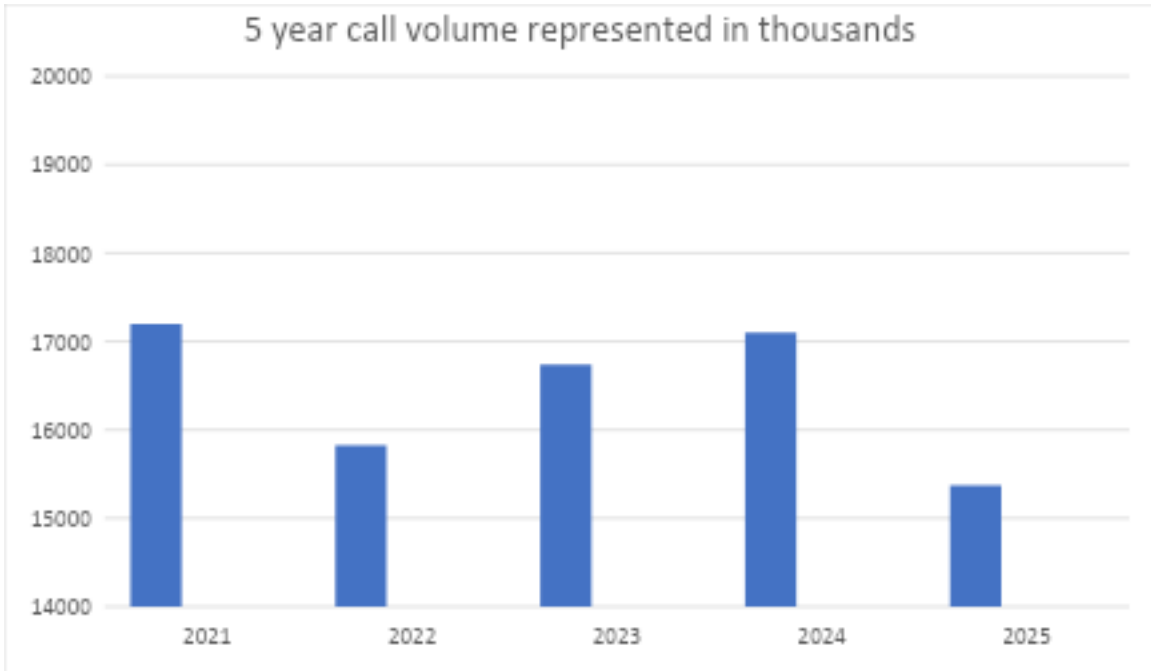
Lieutenant Brigman leads the sworn functions of the administrative division. Police Management Assistant Diaz leads the non-sworn records management functions.

The Administrative Division encompasses numerous organizational functions. Services include records management, evidence/property management, training, grant management, personnel liability, policy review, auditing, fiscal management, non-sworn civil operations, and accreditation.

Crime Data and Transparency Reporting

A benchmark for any community is to have a low crime rate. Many citizens, businesses, and local governments strive to have a low crime rate to help improve the quality of life for the community. The Rockingham Police Department understands the importance of this benchmark and recognizes that crime control is a valuable initiative that supports our department's mission. There are many dynamics to reporting crime data, such as the difference between a reported crime and the subsets of those crimes. Law enforcement's primary role is to accurately collect data to provide reliable crime statistics for the administration of justice, police operations and criminal justice partners.

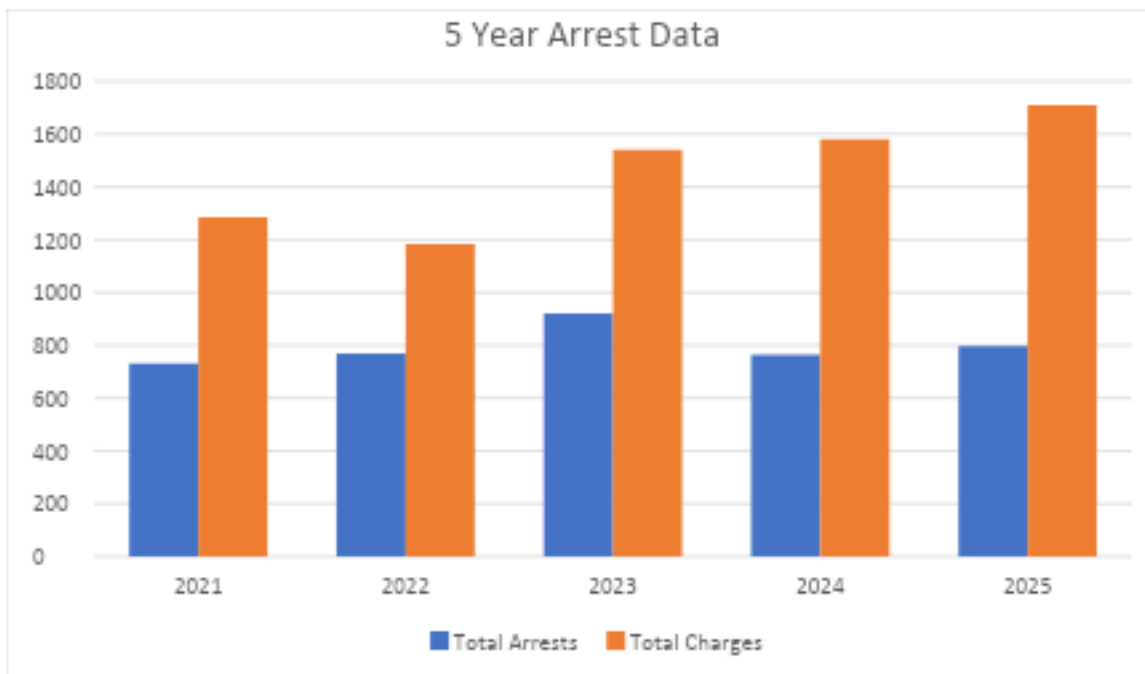
The Rockingham Police Department reports to both state and federal crime reporting systems. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects offenses that come to the attention of law enforcement for violent crime and property crime, as well as data regarding clearances of these offenses. In addition, the FBI collects auxiliary data about these offenses (e.g., time of day of burglaries). This expanded offense data also includes trends in both crime volume and crime rate per 100,000 inhabitants. All crime related statistical data can be found at the NC State Bureau of Investigations website at <http://crimereporting.ncsbi.gov/Reports.aspx>. This site contains all current and historical data for the Rockingham Police Department. For the calendar year 2025, the Rockingham Police Department received 15,372 calls for service which translates into approximately 800 calls per officer for the year, a slight decrease from our 5-year average of approximately 17,000 calls.



Arrests

Arrests are typically represented by two categories, either felony or misdemeanor. Most misdemeanor arrests are the result of warrants that are either obtained by a patrol officer because the crime occurred in their presence, or there is evidence to support a crime that occurred shortly before their arrival (i.e., shop lifting.) Most felony arrests are initiated by the Criminal Investigation Division as the result of an investigation into felonious criminal activity (i.e., murder).

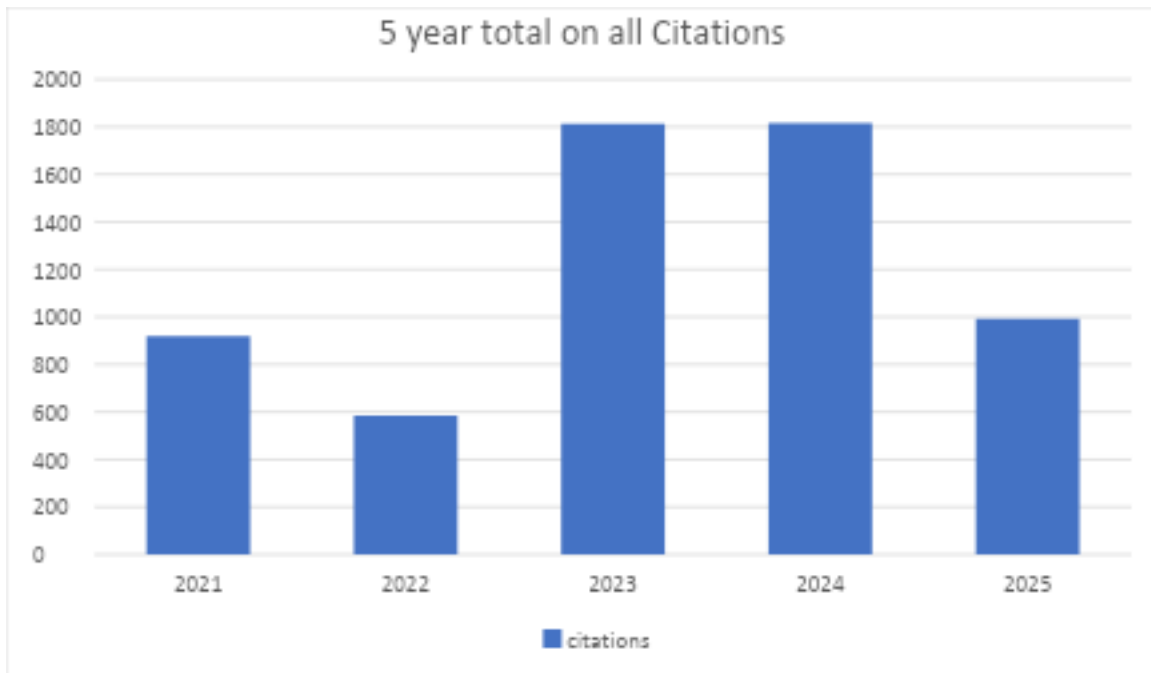
The table provided below shows the total number of arrests and charges for all arrests for the past 5 years. Each arrest, either misdemeanor or felony, represents hours, if not days and sometimes months of effort by the officers who initiated these processes. 2025 arrest numbers remain indicative of a proactive approach to police work. Once again, the department's total charges on all arrests were the highest we have had in the past 5 years, and we expect these numbers to remain consistent into 2026. These numbers do not necessarily reflect an increase in the crime rate, but a proactive approach, coupled with a high case closure rate.



Citations

Citations are typically self-initiated by an officer; they are the result of an officer witnessing or suspecting criminal activity and then initiating contact with an individual suspected of that criminal activity. Citations can be represented by traffic stops, street encounters, or calls for service to local businesses.

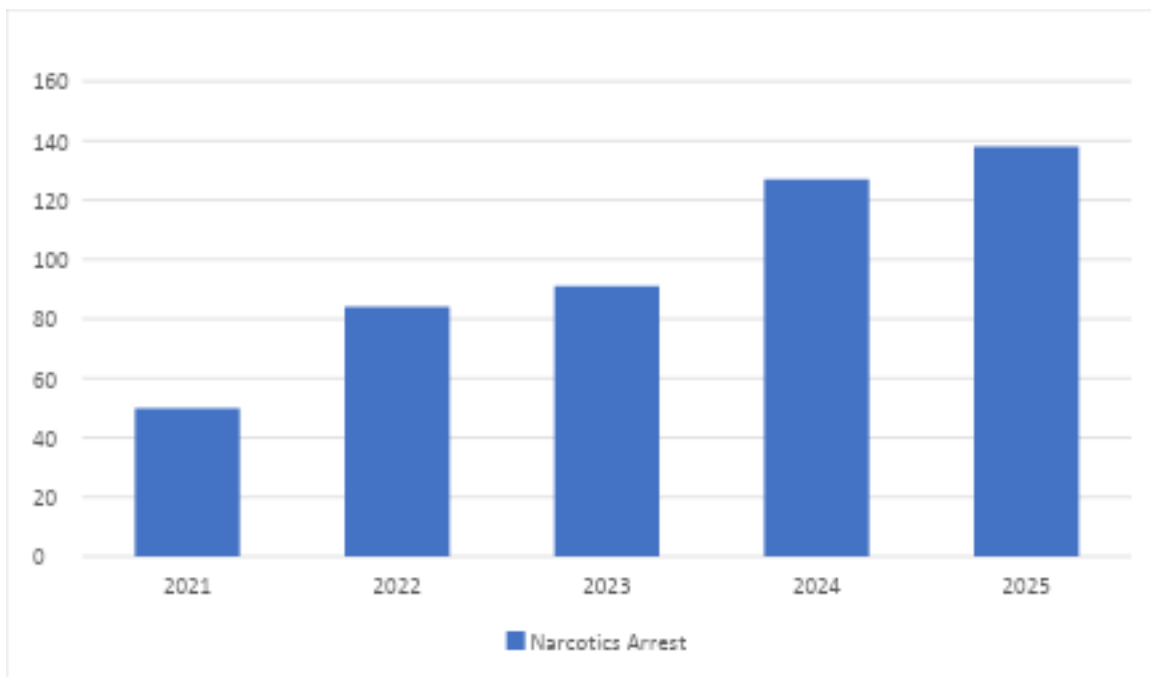
2025 saw a slight decrease in citations as we have had to absorb a traffic position for training purposes in anticipation of some significant positional changes coming soon. Our expectation was set in 2023 with approximately 1800 citations, and our officers have remained steadfast in their commitment to our departmental goals by continuing to try and exceed the 2023 numbers each year.



Narcotics Investigations

Like most agencies across the nation, we receive more complaints about narcotic use than we do about any other criminal activity. 2025 continued a trend where Richmond County continues to be devastated by fentanyl use, as well as overdoses from its use. In 2025 the Rockingham Police Department exceeded its 2024 numbers and continues to make a positive impact on the community. 2025 saw our narcotics Division exceed the numbers of 2024, executing more than 50 Search warrants and seizing more than 25 pounds of illicit narcotics off the streets as well as seizing more than 70 firearms.

Our department continues to work with local, state and federal agencies to build strong cases against narcotics offenders and prosecute these individuals at a successful rate. Many of our narcotics investigations are done jointly with other agencies including Richmond County Sheriff Office, NCSBI, NCALE, FBI, ALE, DEA, and ATF.





In 2024 the Rockingham Police Department partnered with Flock Safety to strategically place License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras and fixed Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras across the city. The LPR cameras give the department the ability to enter pertinent information about a person or vehicle and then receive notification if that person or vehicle crosses the camera's path. For example: If we have information that a 2012 blue Honda Accord was used in a recent Armed Robbery, we can then enter that information into the Flock Safety Portal and see what, if any vehicles matching that description crossed our cameras path, surrounding cities cameras path, and then expand out to surrounding states if needed. For 2025 the cities Flock cameras produced the following results:

- 361 Stolen License Plates
- 203 Stolen Vehicles
- 268 Protection Orders
- 3651 outside agency alerts (alerts other agencies setup for specific vehicles)
- 11 missing people
- 28 sex offenders
- 70 outstanding warrants

Community Engagement

A huge part of the success of any police department is how they relate, interact, and engage the community in which they work. A lot of community engagements happen behind the scenes, and we continue to enhance engagement through our social media platforms. I would encourage you to please follow us on Facebook and Instagram where we try to keep the community up to date with all that is going on at the Rockingham Police Department, as well as information that may impact the community. The department expanded its community engagement initiatives in 2025, and the sheer number of events would not be fairly represented in a few photos, so once again, I encourage you to look at our social media to experience all that occurred in 2025.

Training and Education

Training and education are a focal point of our department, and I am proud to report that nearly 80 percent of our department has either an Intermediate or Advanced Law Enforcement Certification through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education Training and Standards Commission. In 2025, approximately 2600 hours of training was logged, breaking down to approximately 200 hours per month. Much of the training received breaks down into one of 5 Categories:

Criminal Investigations training – 750 hours

Traffic Investigations training – 250 hours

Officer Conduct and Ethics training – 350 hours

Use of Force Training – 700 hours

Leadership Training – 650

In addition to training, we have partnerships with both community college and university programs, which attributes a percentage of the Officers Basic Law Enforcement Certification towards an associate or bachelor's degree. The City of Rockingham has always been a strong proponent of and encouraged education by offering strong incentives to seek higher education.

Department Spotlight

K9 Mick

K9 Mick is a 5-year-old Belgian Malinois assigned to the Rockingham Police Department and handled by Detective Sutton. The team maintains certification through the **International Police Work Dog Association (IPWDA)**. K9 Mick was donated by **K2 K9 Solutions** following Detective Sutton's completion of a certified handler training course in June 2024.

Operational Overview

During this reporting period, K9 Mick was deployed **16 times** in support of Rockingham Police Department investigations and regional law enforcement agencies. Deployments primarily involved **firearms detection, explosives/bomb threat sweeps, evidence recovery, and school safety operations**.

Public Safety Impact

K9 Mick directly assisted in:

- **Homicide investigations**, including the recovery of a confirmed murder weapon
- **Kidnapping and violent crime investigations**, resulting in firearm recoveries
- **School safety sweeps** following threats, ensuring no weapons were present
- **Bomb threat responses**, where no explosive hazards were detected
- **Search warrants and weapons recovery**, including stolen firearms

These deployments increased investigative efficiency, improved officer and public safety, and supported rapid threat assessment in high-risk situations.

Training & Readiness

K9 Mick and Detective Sutton are required to complete a **minimum of 16 hours of training per month**. Throughout the year, all training requirements were met and frequently exceeded, ensuring the team remained fully operational and deployment-ready.

Conclusion

K9 Mick has proven to be a **high-value public safety asset** for the City of Rockingham. The K9 Unit's work contributed to the recovery of firearms connected to violent crimes, enhanced school and community safety, and strengthened the department's ability to respond effectively to critical incidents.



In Conclusion

We continue to build a culture that makes education a priority and foster an environment that prioritizes our Officers, contributing to a successful retention rate. We are expanding our investigative capabilities and working to build relationships with outside agencies that will lead to reduced crime rates and strengthen our ability to effectively prosecute offenders. We are proud of what our staff was able to accomplish in 2025 and even more proud of the community engagement and relationships that have been developed leading to feedback that will help guide us into 2026. In conclusion the Chief and his staff would like to thank the City Council, Mayor, City Manager, and City staff for their continued support of the Rockingham Police Department.