

A Word from Chief Lang...



Dear Mayor Schuster and Members of the Beatrice City Council,

I am proud to present to you our 2008 annual report of the Beatrice Police Department. I have just completed my 16th year as your Chief of Police and throughout those years the Department has accomplished much. None of this would have been possible without the strong support both through the budget process and progressive actions of you and previous mayor's and council's. The Beatrice Police Department is a leader in the use of technology and by the development of programs you helped to make possible.

While reading this you will notice some areas have increased and some have decreased which is normal for any given year. Our total call load was down which was surprising to us since we felt that much of the year we were busier than normal. This can probably be explained by the nature of the activity. We had several serious crimes and major investigations which required large numbers of investigative hours. It should be noted that I directly oversee all major crimes. In the event of a major crime I work directly with Investigators on a daily basis for the duration of the investigation.

If after reading this you have questions please feel free to contact me directly. The men and women of the Beatrice Police Department are dedicated to serving the citizens of Beatrice. We can only accomplish this through the combined efforts of its members and the elected officials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce E. Lang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce E. Lang
Chief of Police
City of Beatrice

Mission Statement

“The Beatrice Police Department will provide service and protection to its citizens through a professional and caring staff of sworn and non-sworn personnel.

A strong patrol presence, supported by various other divisions within the department will be the basis for our crime prevention efforts. Members of the department will work to maintain the standard of living that citizens of Beatrice have come to enjoy.”



Chief of Police
Bruce Lang
1992



Police Secretary
Traci Baehr
2005



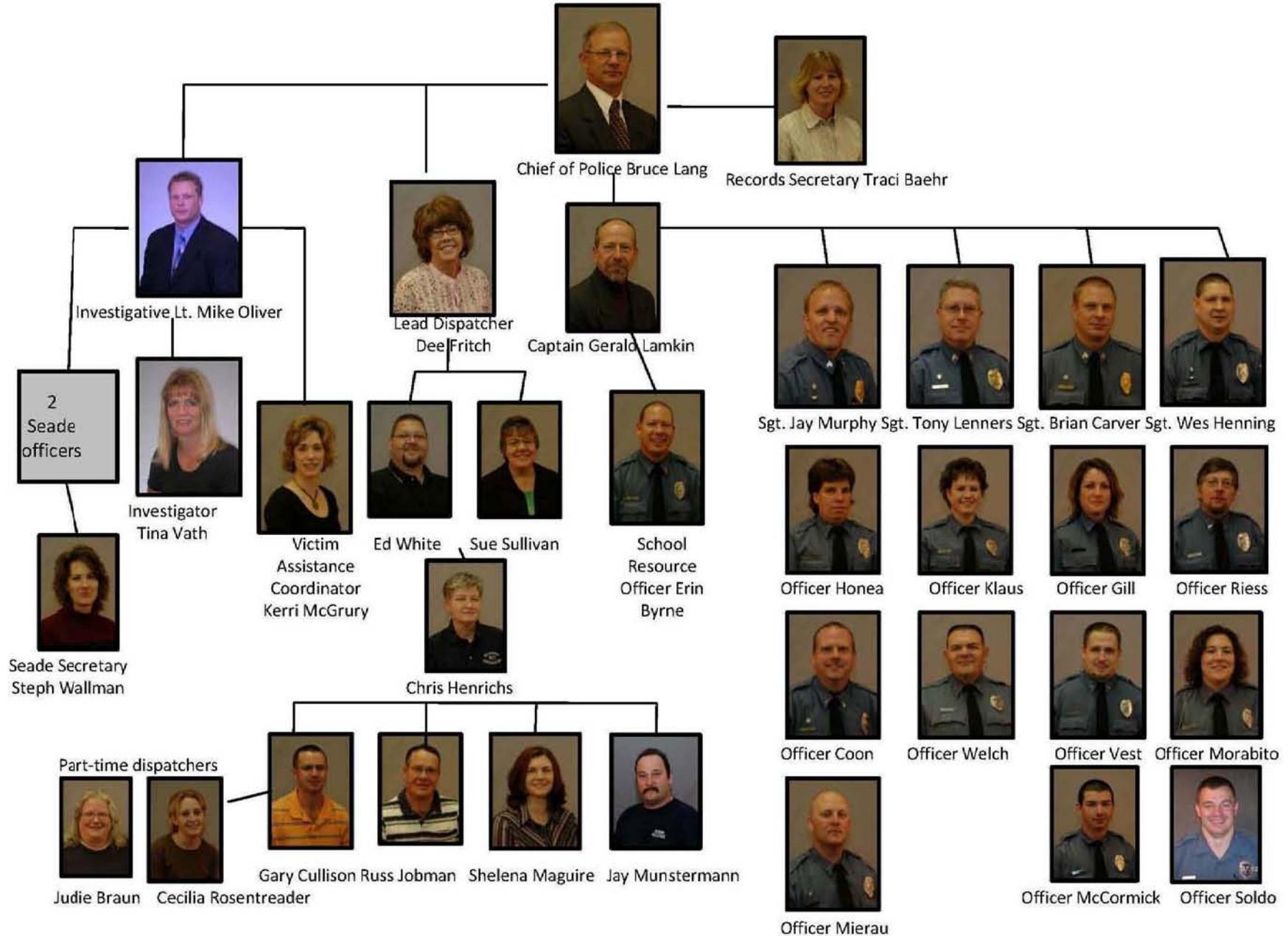
Victim Assistance Coordinator
Kerri McGrury
1998



SEADE Task Force Secretary/Juvenile Services Coordinator
Stephanie Wallman
2000

Administration

Beatrice Police Department Organizational Chart



Part-time dispatchers: Judie Braun, Cecilia Rosentreader, Gary Cullison, Russ Jobman, Shelena Maguire, Jay Munstermann

Changes in Staff 2008

Promotions

- Michael Oliver – promoted to Lieutenant – March 26, 2008
- Wesley Henning – promoted to Sergeant – March 28, 2008

New Hires

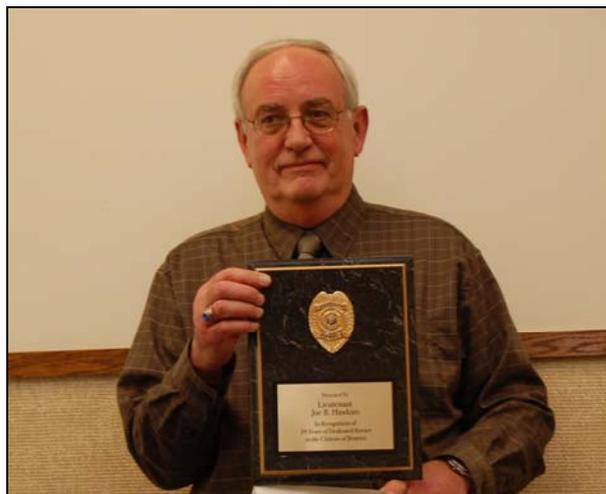
- Gary Jay Munstermann – Dispatcher – April 5, 2008
- Robert Soldo - Police Officer – June 30, 2008

Resignations

- Daniel Emken – Police Officer

Retirements

- Joe Hawkins – Lieutenant



2008 GRANTS

This year all of our grants were provided by the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of Highway Safety. We received a total of \$5775.00 in grant funds. These 'mini' grants were specifically for traffic enforcement and no matching funds were required. A total of four grants were applied for and awarded.

The majority of our grant application and oversight was headed by Lt. Joe Hawkins. When he retired in February 2008 we began implementing a practice that allowed more officers to experience the trials and tribulations of grant writing. The name of the officer that was assigned this task is listed with the specific grant they took charge of.

- 1) Our first grant began in December 2007 but was not concluded and funds provided until January 2008. This grant targeted Impaired Driving and covered the weekends in the month of December and concluded on January 1, 2008. This grant paid for sixty-three hours of overtime and vehicle expense, during the enforcement period.

Grant Award: \$1,599
Officer Colleen Morabito

- 2) This grant again targeted Impaired Drivers. The Nationwide, "You Drink & Drive. You Lose" campaign covered the last two weeks of August. This grant paid for seventy-seven hours of overtime and vehicle expense, during the enforcement period.

Grant Award: \$2195
Sergeant Wes Henning

- 3) We had a small grant period covering six days around Thanksgiving. The "Click It or Ticket It" program emphasized seatbelt usage and the child safety seat law. This grant paid for twenty-seven hours of overtime and vehicle expense, during the enforcement period.

Grant Award: \$720
Officer Doug Coon

- 4) Our final grant in 2008 again called attention to alcohol enforcement. This grant concentrated on the weekends in December and ran through the New Year. This grant paid for fifty-four hours of overtime and vehicle expense, during the enforcement period.

Grant Award: \$1261
Sergeant Brian Carver

2008 Overtime

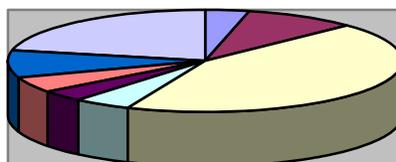
This year we had an increase in our overtime hours by slightly more than 16% over last year. The largest increase came in the area of Fill In, with Training and Court time showing some increase. The Fill In was nearly doubled over last year, due primarily to staffing in the Communication Center. Our 'floater' was being utilized to cover a vacancy while a new dispatcher was being trained. The Fill In hours came to cover vacations and the absence of a part-time dispatcher that was off due to medical issues.

The training increases came about when we utilize our own employees as instructors, which allows more flexibility in scheduling. Sue Sullivan, an employee for the past sixteen years became the department's new CPR Instructor. Training for all dispatchers was also scheduled with the arrival of the new 911 mapping equipment.

The increase in the amount of time officers spend in Court is something that cannot be regulated by our department and is simply part of the judicial process. A complete breakdown of the overtime is shown below.

Overtime Totals

Arrests	86.25
Court	204.75
Fill In	1005.50
Investigation	108.00
Meetings	87.00
Reports	110.75
Special Detail	204.25
Training	495.75
Total Hours	2302.25





Dispatch Supervisor
Desiree Fritch
1985



Sue Sullivan
1992



Chris Henrichs
1993



Ed White
1994



Shelena Maguire
2001



Russell Jobman
2003



Gary Cullison
2004



Jay Munstermann
2008

Part time Dispatchers



Judie Braun
1987



Cecilia Rosentreader
2004

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Center

The Beatrice Communications Center is a busy place. We currently dispatch for 17 fire and rescue agencies and four law enforcement departments in Gage County. All but the Beatrice Fire and Police Departments are funded through contracts with various other governmental bodies. Staffed with two dispatchers all but a small part of the time the center handled over 22,000 calls for service in 2008. This was down slightly from 2007 when we dispatched over 23,000 calls for service.

With the retirement of Lt. Joe Hawkins the management of the communications center was changed to utilize Dee Fritch as the first line supervisor reporting directly to the Chief of Police. While the wealth of knowledge lost with the retirement of Lt. Hawkins has been even more difficult to replace than we anticipated, the center has adjusted and is functioning well.

The communications center suffered a major lightening strike this year which caused over fifty thousand dollars in damage. Although we do have lightening protection, it was not enough to stop the destruction to our equipment. Insurance fortunately covered most of the repairs and we are now back to full operability in the center.



Shelena Maguire painted 2 murals in the Communications Center

2008 Calls for Service for all Agencies In Gage County

Type of Call	2006	2007	2008
911 Hang Up	287	248	191
Accident/Fatality	5	4	7
Accident/Injuries	145	154	155
Accident/No Injuries	884	991	911
Adult Abuse	8	7	9
Alarm	169	107	70
ALS	17	14	14
Animal Bite	51	45	45
Animal Complaint	1082	1010	878
Animal Cruelty	74	96	124
Arson	3	1	6
Assault	204	213	169
Assist Citizen	228	237	201
Assist Other Agency	209	238	201
Attempted Suicide	27	31	11
Bar Check	118	176	303
Barking Dog	125	100	203
BPW	284	264	244
Bomb Threat	0	0	1
Burglar Alarm	191	269	216
Burglary	172	171	133
Child Abuse	151	183	93
Civil	270	260	268
Complaint against Officer	5	12	5
Compliance Check	0	36	1
Crime Stoppers	35	19	25
Death	79	71	67
Disorderly Conduct	9	21	12
Disturbance	554	614	496
Driving Under Suspension	39	59	55
Drug Information	75	95	78
Drug Lab	31	4	1
Drug Violation	40	76	39
DWI	139	186	211
Embezzlement	3	0	2
Emergency Protective Custody	10	12	17
Escort	237	168	137
Fail to Appear	43	19	23

Type of Call	2006	2007	2008
False Reporting	7	4	5
Field Interview	23	24	232
Fire	269	224	194
Fire Alarm	135	143	141
Forgery	14	28	6
Found Animal	286	294	253
Found Property	271	251	235
Fraud	71	87	60
Gambling Violation	0	1	0
Game Violation	26	31	30
Gas Drive Off	99	82	93
General Information	1218	1125	975
Harassment	211	260	244
Health Hazard	54	61	63
Hitch Hiker	21	11	17
Homicide	0	1	0
Identity Theft	0	1	6
Indecent Exposure	13	11	11
Injury	18	13	4
Junked Motor Vehicles	366	367	136
Juvenile	413	436	362
Liquor Laws	85	108	93
Lost Animal	129	153	130
Lost Property	218	202	76
Mental	46	45	40
Minor In Possession	10	51	41
Missing Person	43	28	25
Motor Vehicle Theft	46	53	41
Motorist Assist	336	436	422
Noise	330	231	214
Open Door	133	56	62
Ordinance Violation	132	56	207
Out of Unit	441	394	233
Paper Service	424	435	538
Parking Complaint	411	see below	
Parking 2 hrs	0	82	130
Parking 24 hrs	0	401	184
Parking Violation	0	253	230
Probation Violation	18	16	23
Property Damage	38	63	43
Protection Order Violation	82	63	39
Prowler	20	19	25

Type of Call	2006	2007	2008
Public Service	121	127	101
Pursuit	12	16	8
Rape	3	9	7
Remove Party	141	165	121
Rescue	952	1046	1136
Robbery	1	2	2
Runaway	110	138	100
Sex Offender Registration	0	0	2
Sexual Assault	30	41	51
Shoplifting	29	18	25
Solicitor	22	19	29
Suicide	2	2	3
Suspicious	690	700	617
Terrorism	1	4	4
Theft	703	618	644
Threats	86	136	112
Traffic Hazard	156	168	179
Traffic Stops	2282	3732	3589
Transfer	806	989	1030
Transport	96	152	321
Trash	90	78	88
Trespassing	46	75	56
Truancy	10	11	20
Unknown	9	11	7
Vacation Watch	78	67	67
Vandalism	590	504	465
Vehicle Complaint	1004	see below	
Vehicle Comp/DUI	0	154	239
Vehicle Comp/Noise	0	38	35
Vehicle Comp/Other	0	595	441
Vehicle Comp/Bus Arm	0	4	15
Vehicle Comp/Speeding	0	239	151
Vehicle Comp/Stop Sign	0	1	1
Warrants	287	373	315
Watch	125	115	111
Weapons Law Violation	8	7	4
Weather	32	33	41
Welfare Check	589	604	608
Totals	21571	23947	22230

Calls for Service by Agency 2008

Beatrice Police Department	12816
Gage County Sheriff's Office	6931
Beatrice Fire and Rescue	3410
Wymore Police Department	1086
Board of Public Works	244
Wymore Rescue	243
Beatrice Rural Fire	89
Adams Rescue	68
Clatonia Rescue	56
Cortland Fire	38
Blue Springs Fire	36
Pickrell Fire/QRT's	35
Wymore Fire	35
Game and Parks	30
Cortland QRT's	30
Adams Fire	28
Filley Fire	25
Odell QRT's	24
Barneston Fire/QRT's	18
Clatonia Fire	14
Odell Fire	14
Dewitt Fire	2

A total for all would not be accurate, for example, on an injury accident, there is a fire unit, a rescue unit, an extrication unit and a law enforcement officer sent, therefore this would generate three different calls for service for one actual call.

The Beatrice Communications Center does not dispatch State Patrol officers to calls however, there are times when all deputies are busy and a State Patrolman is asked to handle a call in the county therefore, they will be dispatched on the call.

The Beatrice Communications Center answers the Board of Public Works phones on evenings, weekends and holidays and calls out the appropriate department to handle the emergency call. During a major power outage, one calls for service is entered and every callers address is added to that call rather than making a calls for service per caller. The Communications Center also receives calls for Board of Public Works during normal business hours however in that case, the call is simply transferred out to the Service Center.



Captain Gerald Lamkin
1991



Sgt. Jay Murphy
1990



Sgt. Tony Lenners
1986



Sgt. Brian Carver
2000



Sgt. Wes Henning
1997



Officer Cheryl Honea
1984



Officer Ernie Reiss
1989



Officer Jennifer Klaus
1994



Officer Erin Byrne
School Resource
1997



Officer Doug Coon
1997



Officer Jay Welch
1999



Officer Robert Mierau
2002



Officer Colleen Morabito
2005



Officer Sean Vest
2006



Officer Kristine Gill
2006



Officer Joseph McCormick
2007



Officer Robert Soldo
2008

P a t r o l

Vehicle Summary 2008

In February 2008 the Beatrice Police Department took possession of a new patrol vehicle that had been ordered during the later part of 2007. The black and white Ford Crown Victoria was purchased to replace the aging Unit #2, a 2002 Crown Victoria.

The police department currently has several vehicles with mileage near or exceeding 100,000 miles. With the ever present budget cuts, the aging vehicles have been replaced at a rate of one a year. The necessity to hold on to patrol vehicles longer can be seen through vehicle repairs associated with high mileage vehicles. Some of the repairs not normally seen in the past, include; replacement of power window switches, replacement of serpentine belts, replacement of power steering pump, fluid leaks, alternator repair, replace intake manifold, starters, and front end repair to include Idler and Pitman arm replacement. The department spent \$18,066.46 for necessary vehicle repairs, keeping within the budgeted amount.

During 2008, the patrol vehicles were driven an average of 18,755 miles annually or 1562 miles monthly. With a six marked unit fleet, that translates into 112,532 cumulative miles per year, compared with 105,624 during 2007.

FLEET INFORMATION

Unit	Year	Make	Model	Mileage	Miles Driven In 2008	Use
1	2005	Ford	Crown Vic	69,493	19,981	Patrol
2	2008	Ford	Crown Vic	18,058	18,058	Patrol
3	2007	Ford	Explorer	33,646	20,075	Patrol/Supervisor
4	2003	Ford	Crown Vic	98,469	20,376	Patrol
5	2003	Ford	Crown Vic	103,715	7,615	Patrol
6	2006	Ford	Crown Vic	52,861	26,427	Patrol
7	2000	Chev	Impala	88,180	5,284	Administration
8	2001	GMC	Jimmy	102,164	6,258	Investigations
9	2000	Ford	Crown Vic	104,097	2,973	School Resource
11	2002	Chev	Impala	55,528	6,898	Administration
14	2001	Ford	Crown Vic	100,849	7,766	School/Training
DARE	1995	Ford	Mustang	63,076	1,235	Administration
Bus	1996	Chev	Blue Bird	5,483	147	Mobile Command
ERT	1996	Dodge	Ram Van	174,716	168	Tactical Deployment

Vehicle Expense

	2008	2007	2006
Parts/Supplies	\$10,403.75	\$13,146.89	\$9,826.97
Labor	\$7,662.71	\$9,902.49	\$8,753.59
	=====	=====	=====
Maintenance/Repairs Total	\$18,066.46	\$23,049.38	\$18,579.56
Gas and Oil Total	\$33,985.46	\$34,125.83	\$25,587.55



Training Summary

The Beatrice Police Department strives, through an aggressive training program, to keep our employees up-to-date with the constantly changing legal, tactical and informational concepts. In spite of rising training costs and ever-present budget cuts, we are attempting to better utilize the funds available to us by providing in-house training, hosting training courses, and sending employees to free or low cost training.

Some of the more notable training events of 2008 attended by Police Department personnel are listed below.

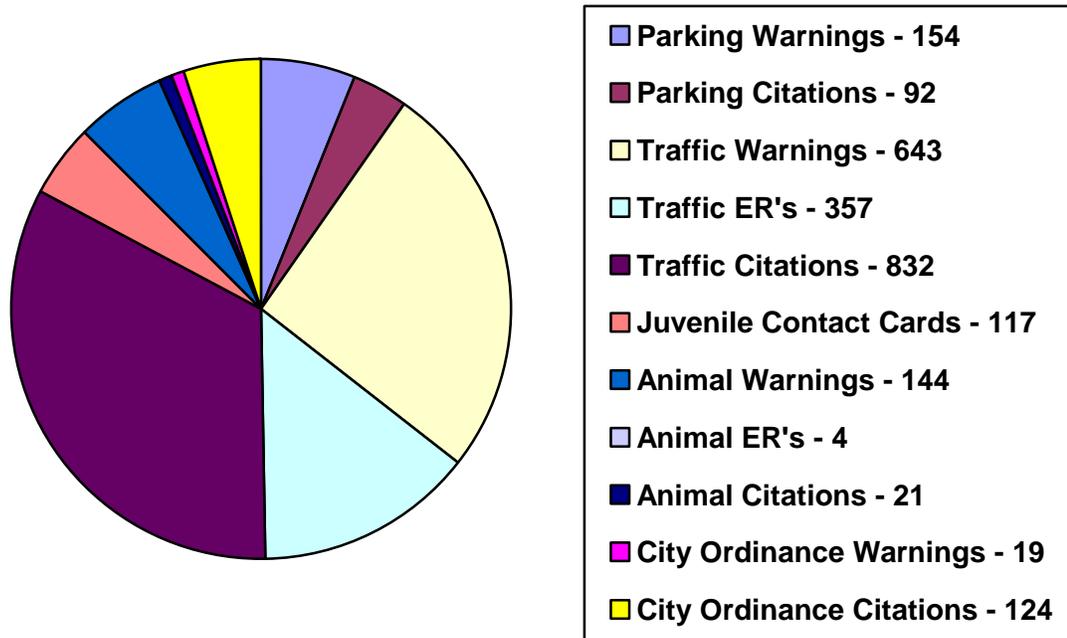
- New World User Conference
- Fundamentals of Crime Scene Investigation
- DEA Basic Narcotics Investigators Course
- Basis Spanish for 9-1-1
- Street Survival Seminar
- Reid Interview and Interrogation
- International Association for Identification Conference
- Victim's Rights Conference
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Cyber Security Conference
- Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference
- INIA/Skynark Conference/Criminal Interdiction
- Intermediate Accident Investigation
- Responding to Violent Crime Seminar
- Active Shooter/School Safety Conference
- Crisis Negotiation Basic Academy
- Patrol Rifle User Course
- Meth 360, Training of Trainers
- Precision Rifle I & II User's Course
- Internet Crime against Children Investigation Techniques
- CPR/BLS Instructor
- LeLEIN Annual Conference
- Supervision of Police Personnel
- Telecommunicator Training – Basic, EMD, & NCIC
- Rural Institute of Justice Technology Conference

The Beatrice Police Department also conducts in-house training on a monthly basis. Much of the training listed below has been provided to employees, aside from the employee's wages, at no cost to the department. Additionally, the Beatrice Police Department maintains instructors in various disciplines allowing us to conduct much of our training in-house. In-house training is listed below.

Low Light Tactics – Technical Exercises
Low Light Tactics – Field Training Exercise
Department Procedures, Pursuit Policy Review, PURSUE Video
Defensive Tactics & Baton
CPS Protocols “The Nebr Safety Intervention System”
TacSight SE35 Advanced Thermal Imager Familiarization
A Prosecutor’s View of DUI Procedures
Firearms – Annual Qualification
Traffic LASER Review
Firearms – Precision, Combat Course and Rifle Qualification
Active Shooter – Case Studies & Breaching Overview
CPR-AED
Firearms – Low Light
Defensive Tactics, Weapon Retention, Pressure Points, and Handcuffing
TASER User Course



Ticket Statistics for 2008



Parking Warnings and Citations

Description	Warnings	Citations
24 hour parking	112	14
Alley Parking Prohibited	1	3
Handicapped Parking Violation	2	3
Improper Parking	1	5
Leaving Vehicle Unattended	2	
Left Side Parking	9	13
Meter Violation		
Obstruct Alley Entrance	3	
Obstructing Traffic	1	
Parked In Fire Lane		6
Parking - 2 hr	4	15
Parking in Restricted lot	3	6
Prohibited Parking	9	23
Red Zone Violation	7	4
Totals	154	92

Traffic Warnings, Equipment Repairs and Citations

Description	Warnings	ER's	Citations
Address Change	4	5	
Careless Driving			6
Driving Left of Center	7		3
Driving Under Suspension			52
DUS Due to ALR/Fail to Comply			23
Duty to Carry License Permit	15	7	6
Exhibition of Acceleration	1		2
Expired License Plate			1
Fail to Yield from a Stop Sign	4		31
Fail to Yield ROW/Unmarked			4
Failure to Maintain Lane			6
Failure To Signal	16		2
Failure to yield From a Yield Sign			1
Failure to Yield o Vehicle	5		14
Failure to Yield To Emergency Vehicle	2		
Fictitious Plates		6	1
Fictitious License Plates	2		9
Follow too Close	3		1
Illegal U-turn			1
Improper Lane Change	2		3
Improper Passing			2
Improper Turn	11		
Leaving Scene of Accident			15
Lights required on Vehicle	50	250	10
Motor Vehicle Restraint – Children	18	1	16
Mufflers	8	13	2
Negligent Driving	2		18
No Headlight		2	5
No Helmet	1		
No License Plates	1	10	1
No Operators License on Person		1	
No Proof of Insurance			14
No Valid Operator's License			8
No Valid Registration	1		15
One Way Violation	5		3
Operators must be licensed	21	17	45
Passing Violation	4		2
Plates/Manner of Display	3	28	

Description	Warnings	ER's	Citations
Proof of Financial Responsibility – Penalty	1	1	79
Proof of Ownership	1	2	14
Provisional Operators Permit Violation	1	1	7
Reckless Driving			5
Red Flag Violation	1		
Registration Cert; Duty to Carry	3		
Registration Required	30	10	158
Screeching of Tires	2		2
Speeding	299		152
Spilling Contents of Load on Street			1
Stop Sign Violation	64		44
Traffic Signal Violation	49		26
Truck Route Violation	1		4
Unsafe Backing	1		4
Vehicle Occupant Protection System Required	1		
Violate Lerner's Permit Provisions			4
Vision Obstruction	3	3	6
Willful Reckless Driving			4
Totals	643	357	832

Juvenile Contact Cards

Type of Contact	2006	2007	2008
Arson		2	6
Assault	19	17	9
Assault Domestic	6		
Assault in the 3rd Degree	2	7	
Carrying Concealed Weapon	1		
Credit Card/ATM Fraud			1
Criminal Mischief	2	9	20
Criminal Mischief, \$100-\$300 damage	9		3
Criminal Trespass	1	6	8
Criminal Trespass 2nd	2		2
Discharge Weapon within City Limits	3	1	1
Disorderly Conduct		2	2
Disturbing the Peace	1		2
False Reporting	2	2	3
Intimidation by phone call			2
Jaywalking	1		
Littering		5	
Minibike Violation	2		
No Helmet	1		
No Skateboard Helmet	5		1
Nuisance Violation	4		
Poss of Marijuana less than 1 oz	1		
Possession of Stolen Property	4	1	
Possession/Discharge Fireworks		4	
Prepare, Distribute Obscene Material	1		
Provoking An Assault		2	
Runaway	33	38	32
Shoplifting	11	4	3
Terroristic Threats		1	
Theft	3	2	2
Theft by Receiving Stolen Property			1
Theft by Unlawful Taking	4	2	9
Theft From Motor Vehicle	1		
Threatens in Menacing Manner	1	1	8
Tobacco Use by Minor	6	10	2
Urinating In Public		1	
Totals	126	114	117

Animal Warnings, ER's and Citations

Description	Warnings	ER	Citations
Animal Enclosure	1		
Cruelty to Animals	5		4
Dangerous/Vicious Dog	1		1
Dog and Cats must be licensed	39	3	4
Dog at Large	84	1	12
Noise/Animal, Fowl	2		
Nuisance Dogs	9		
Rabies Tags	3		
Totals	144	4	21

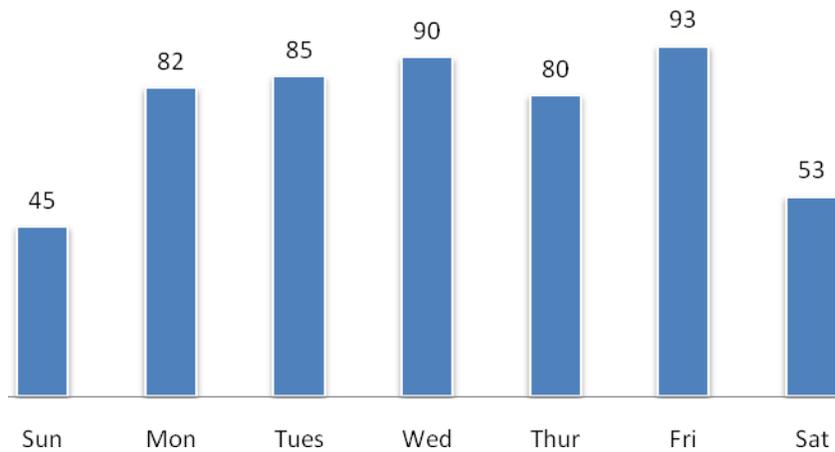
City Ordinance Warnings and Citations

Type	Warnings	Citations
Burning Salvage/Trash		2
Compulsory Education Violation		12
Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor		16
Discharge of Firearm in City Limits		2
Disturbing the Peace	2	10
Disturbing the Peace/Stereo	7	3
False Reporting		15
Junked motor Vehicle Prohibited		2
Littering	3	3
No Skate Board Helmet	5	2
Shoplifting		23
Soliciting without a permit	1	
Theft By Deception		4
Theft by Taking or Disposition		18
Unnecessary Noise	1	
Urinating in Public		12
Totals	19	124

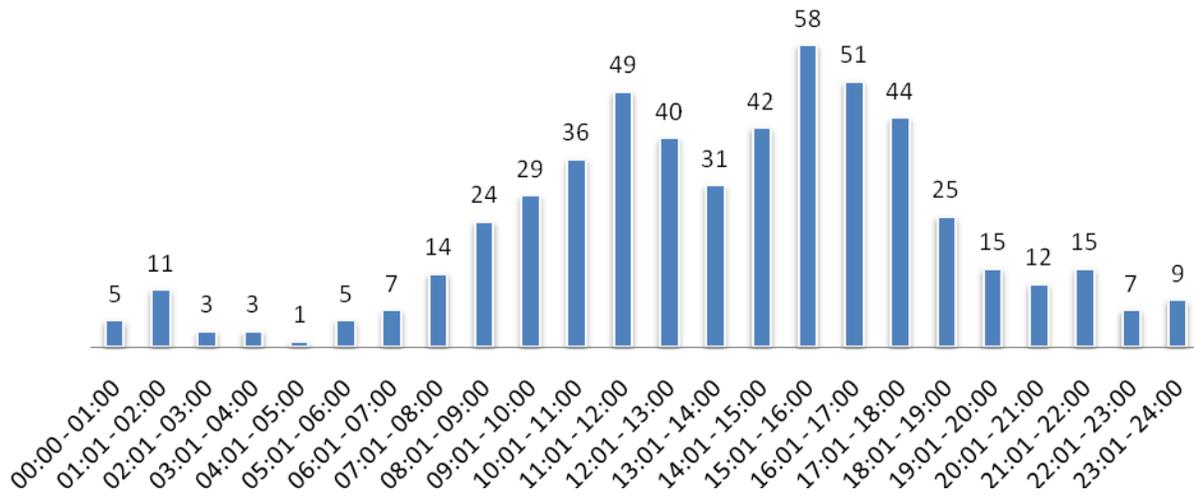
Accident Tallies for 2008

<u>Type of Accidents</u>	
Non-Injury	488
Injury	47
Fatality	1
Total	536

Number by the Days of the Week

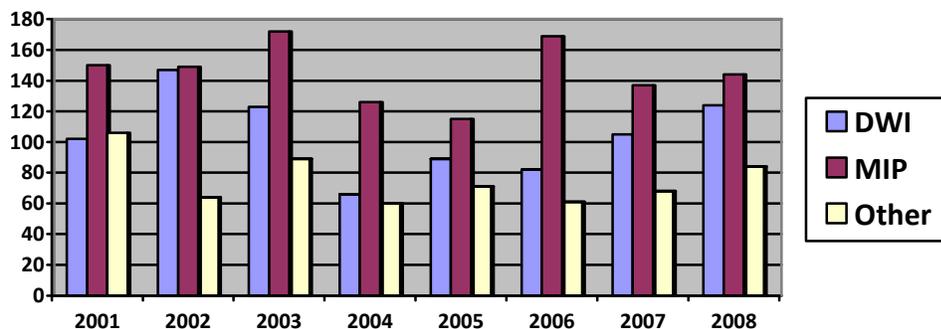


Number by Time of Day



Alcohol Related Arrests

Type of Arrest	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Driving While Intoxicated	102	147	123	66	89	82	105	124
Minor in Possession	150	149	172	126	115	169	137	144
Procure Alcohol for Minor	Stats included in other				8	4	5	7
Other	106	64	89	60	63	57	63	77
Total	358	360	384	252	275	312	310	352



Drug Related Arrests

Type of Arrest	2005	2006	2007	2008
Possession of Marijuana less than 1 oz	48	37	41	27
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	51	37	43	32
Drug/Narcotics Violations	25	6	13	5
Manufacture Drugs with Intent to Distribute	5	5	8	12
Poss. Of Precursor to Manufacture Meth	11	0	0	0
Total	140	85	105	76

Juvenile Alcohol and Drug Related Arrests

Type of Arrest	2005	2006	2007	2008
Possession of Marijuana less than 1 oz	16	10	5	4
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	10	7	9	4
Drug/Narcotics Violations	1	0	1	1
Manufacture Drugs with Intent to Distribute	2	1	1	1
.02 Violation	1	2	0	1
Minor In Possession	28	59	46	46
Procure Alcohol for Minor	0	1	1	4
Open Container	2	5	2	0
Driving While Intoxicated	6	8	1	2
Total	66	92	65	63



Missouri Majorities

Major Crime Report

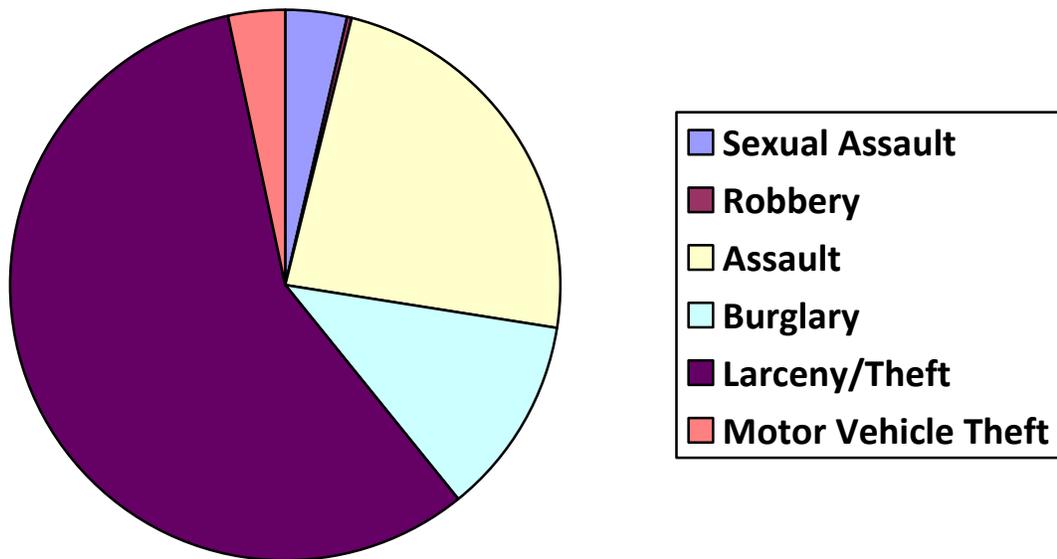
The Major Crime Report consists of the following crimes: Homicide, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny/Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft. The Major Crimes Unit underwent a significant change during 2008 with the retirement of Lieutenant Joe Hawkins. I was fortunate enough to be promoted to Lieutenant in March and was put in charge of Investigations in April.

2008 was a unique year for the Beatrice Police Department, even though there were no homicides we worked a homicide from 1985. On February 5, 1985 Helen Wilson was found murdered and raped in her apartment in Beatrice. In 1989 six people were arrested and charged with her murder. Of the six, five pled guilty and one was convicted at trial. The charges ranged from Aiding and Abetting Homicide to Homicide. The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that DNA evidence collected from the crime scene should be tested to see if it matched Joseph White or Thomas Winslow. Much to our surprise the DNA did not match White or Winslow nor did it match any of the other four people convicted. White and Winslow were granted their request for new trials. This was the first time in Nebraska where a defendant was granted a new trial based on DNA evidence. For five months we worked on this case, going over the reports, re-interviewing the convicted and testing evidence. This painstaking process showed that Bruce Smith was responsible for the rape and murder of Helen Wilson.

Other than the Wilson case we saw an increase of 50 major crimes from 2007. This increase can be traced to an increase in larceny/theft and assaults. Larceny/theft saw an increase by 20 from 2007. Assaults had an increase of 36 from 2007. On a good note we made it through 2008 without a homicide and our reported sexual assaults decreased by 3.

Major Crimes Reported in Beatrice

Offense	2005	2006	2007	2008
Homicide	0	0	1	0
Sexual Assault	27	25	34	31
Robbery	2	1	2	2
Assault	154	183	171	207
Burglary	102	122	106	101
Larceny/Theft	591	584	477	499
Motor Vehicle Theft	39	17	29	30
Totals	915	932	820	870





Lieutenant Mike Oliver
1991



Investigator Tina Vath
1997

2008-2009
Investigative
Services

Criminal Investigations Report

The criminal investigations unit is responsible for the investigation of cases involving a special subject matter and cases that are more complicated and often of a more time consuming nature. The Criminal Investigations Unit is assigned a case when the nature involves serious criminal activity, such as suspected homicides, suicides, felony thefts and felonious assaults, or when the criminal activity appears to be part of a pattern.

The investigations unit saw a change in 2008 with the promotion of Lt. Mike Oliver. The investigations unit was restructured adding Lt. Oliver as Investigative Lieutenant. This position commands the investigations unit, which is staffed with one full time investigator.

During 2008, the Investigation Unit was busy with a variety of cases, including several embezzlement cases, burglary cases, sexual assault cases, and a cold case homicide investigation. In the beginning of 2008, the investigations unit conducted investigations into two embezzlement cases resulting in the arrest of two suspects. One is still in court proceedings. The investigations unit also worked several burglary cases during 2008, resulting in the arrest of numerous subjects for burglary.

The Investigations Unit had a historic year in 2008, making Nebraska history on two different cases. Late in 2007, the Investigations Unit investigated a homicide. In May 2008, the Investigation Unit assisted in the prosecution of the suspect as the state's representative at the trial. The suspect was convicted of 2nd Degree Murder and Use of a weapon to commit a felony. In July the suspect was sentenced to Life in prison plus 50 years. This case marks the first time in Nebraska history that media cameras have been allowed in courtrooms.

The Investigations Unit spent several months investigating a cold case homicide from 1985. On February 6, 1985, Helen Wilson was found murdered and sexually assaulted in her Beatrice apartment. In March 1989, six suspects were arrested. Five plead guilty to either aiding or abetting 2nd Degree murder or 2nd Degree murder. One was convicted at trial to 2nd Degree murder. In 2008, DNA testing was allowed on evidence from the crime scene. The DNA results did not match any of the six that were convicted of this crime. The case was reopened and a new investigation started. After numerous interviews, review of evidence, and DNA tests, it was confirmed on October 28, 2008, that Bruce Smith of Oklahoma City was responsible for this crime. Bruce Smith died in 1992 in Oklahoma City of Aids. This case marks the first time DNA tests have exonerated someone convicted of a crime in Nebraska.

In addition to criminal investigations, the Criminal Investigations Unit conducts background investigations for department personnel, and background investigations for liquor license applications within the City of Beatrice. The Criminal Investigator is also assigned to the state mandated, countywide, Child Abuse/Neglect Investigative and Treatment Teams. The teams meet once a month and reviews cases involving suspected child abuse or neglect.

The Investigation Unit also serves as liaison officers to Crimestoppers of Gage County, Inc. This assignment requires the investigators to attend meetings of the Crimestoppers board. The investigators are also responsible for the maintenance of the statistical reports, writing of the year-end report, and recommending rewards to confidential callers. In 2008, Gage County Crimestoppers paid approximately \$700.00 in rewards to confidential callers.

Crime Scene Team

The Crime Scene Team had another busy year, the team was activated six times in 2008. Five of the call outs were here in Beatrice and one was in Filley. Complete breakdowns of the calls are listed below.

- March 19 The team was called out to a local apartment building to investigate the scene of a death.
- April 3 The team was called out to a local residence to investigate the scene of a suicide.
- April 24 The team was called to a residence near Filley to assist the Gage County Sheriff's Office investigate a missing persons report..
- July 10 The team was called to a residence in Beatrice to investigate a death.
- November 11 The team was called to a church in Beatrice to investigate a burglary.
- December 12 The team was called to a residence to assist in serving a search warrant.

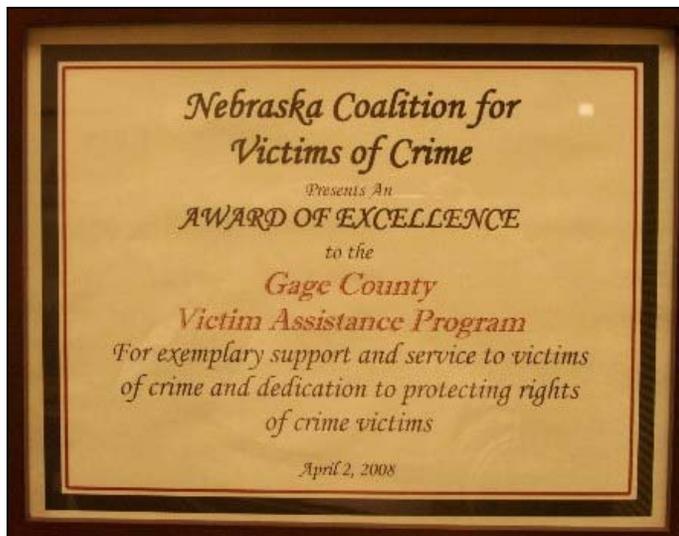


Crime Scene Team Members

Back Row: Lt. Mike Oliver, Ofc Jay Welch, Ofc Erin Byrne, Sgt. Wes Henning
Front Row: Kerri McGrury, Sgt. Jay Murphy, Stephanie Wallman, Inv Tin Vath

Arrest Charges

Type of Charges	2005	2006	2007	2008
Assault 1 st /2 nd /3 rd	67	50	58	35
Assault on an Officer	2	2	7	2
Strangulation	5	2	3	2
Domestic Assault	63	51	32	38
Protection Order Violations	24	23	11	7
Sexual Assaults 1 st /2 nd /3 rd	9	12	5	4
Drug Violations	149	85	105	76
Burglary	14	9	11	15
Theft	31	48	55	57
Criminal Mischief	73	66	72	36
Child Abuse/Neglect	37	27	22	13
Weapons Violations	22	7	17	12
Disturbing the Peace	16	26	11	13
Disorderly Conduct	23	20	12	12
Minor In Possession	110	169	137	144
Procuring	8	12	5	7
DWI	90	82	105	124
Refusal to Submit	16	14	24	29
Open Container & other Alcohol offenses	50	35	44	77
Runaway	65	37	49	28
Terroristic Threats/ Threats	18	10	15	11
Forgery 1st Degree	12	1	1	0
Resisting Arrest	5	6	6	7
Flight to Avoid Arrest	6	2	2	5
Other Offenses	276	192	239	54
Total Arrests	1191	988	1048	808



SWD-VRPS-a-cops

Beatrice – Gage County Emergency Response Team

The Beatrice-Gage County Emergency Response Team is a multi-agency tactical unit formed in the mid 1980's to respond to high-risk incidents. The unit is made up of Beatrice Police Department, Gage County Sheriff's Office, and Beatrice Fire and Rescue personnel. The Emergency Response Team is tasked with resolving hostage situations, barricaded subjects, the service of high-risk search and arrest warrants, or any incident requiring high-risk police tactics. ERT is also available to assist the S.E.A.D.E. drug task force with the service of their high-risk search and arrest warrants. Command of an incident falls with the agency head of the jurisdiction where the incident occurs, with the Tactical Team Commander having operational command over the unit.

Early in 2008 ERT began the process of filling positions on the team opened as a result when Lieutenant Oliver, Sergeant Murphy, and Officer Emken left the team. Newly appointed members from the Beatrice Police Department were; Colleen Morabito, Sean Vest, and Joe McCormick. Newly appointed members from the Sheriff's Office were; Tony Shepardson, John Chavez, and Andrew Rinquest. Sergeant Joe Kubicek was assigned as the Assistant Team Leader.

During 2008, the unit conducted monthly training in the following areas;

- Firearms Training
- Dynamic Entry Drills
- Firearms – Shooting on the Move/Entry Drills
- SWAT Team Structure, Basis Movements, Tactics, Entry Techniques, Stealth Search FTX
- Dynamic Entry Drills
- Firearms – Position Shooting/Exertion Course
- Entry Training with Gas Masks
- Critical Incident Debrief/Less Lethal User Course
- Firearms – Displacement/Challenge Course
- Breaching and Alternate Entry Points

Several members attended advanced or specialized training in the following areas;

- Crisis Negotiation Basic Academy
- Patrol Rifle User Course
- Precision Rifle I & II
- Precision Rifle Course

Throughout 2008, the unit was activated four times for tactical incidents, resulting in nine arrests.

- 1 High risk search warrants, drug related
- 2 High risk search warrant, other
- 1 Barricade incidents involving suicidal/homicidal subjects

Team Member Information

Tactical Commander	Chief Deputy Doug Klaus	GCSO
Tactical Team Leader	Sergeant Tony Lenners	BPD
Asst Tactical Team Leader	Sergeant Joe Kubicek	GCSO
Team Members	Sergeant Wes Henning	BPD
	Officer Erin Byrne	BPD
	Officer Doug Coon	BPD
	Sergeant Brian Carver	BPD
	Officer Rob Mierau	BPD
	Investigator Zac Lauenstein	BPD
	Sergeant Bruce Slaven	GCSO
	Officer Colleen Morabito	BPD
	Deputy Tony Shepardson	GCSO
	Officer Sean Vest	BPD
	Deputy John Chavez	GCSO
	Officer Joe McCormick	BPD
	Deputy Andrew Rinquest	GCSO
Negotiations Team Commander	Captain Jerry Lamkin	BPD
Negotiations Team Leader	Investigator Zac Lauenstein	BPD
Negotiations Team Member	Officer Erin Byrne	BPD
	Officer Colleen Morabito	BPD
Tactical Medics	Paramedic Mike Massey	BF&R
	Paramedic Jim Young	BF&R
	Captain Craig Fisher	BF&R
	Paramedic Jeremy Seggerman	BF&R



Gage County Victim Assistance Program

- The Victim Assistance Program has been in existence since 1995. It is supported by VOCA federal grant funds, in-kind and cash match by the City of Beatrice and Gage County. The daily operation of duties of the director include but are not limited to direct contact either face to face or phone contact with victims, assistance with protection orders, criminal justice advocacy, follow up contact, etc. The director is also responsible for grant writing and keeping track of all statistics for VOCA funding.
- This program provides services to all victims of crime in Gage County. Some of the services provided are listed below:

Crisis Intervention	Personal Advocacy
Compensation Assistance	Jail Release Information
VINE Information/Registration	Parole Information
Victim Impact Statements	Transportation
Property Release	Protection Order Assistance
Restitution Information/Assistance	Criminal Justice Advocacy
911 Cellular Phones	

- I am a Board Member of the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime which meets bi-monthly.
- I serve on the Coordinating Council of the Gage County MAPS (Multiple Agencies Partnering for Success) and on the Community Justice Committee of the Gage County MAPS. The Community Justice Committee organized the 3rd Annual National Night Out this year. It was hosted at Chautauqua Park.

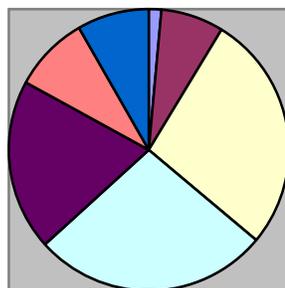
Victim Assistance Program Statistics 2008

TYPE OF SERVICE	NUMBER OF TIMES PROVIDED
Crisis Counseling	31
Personal Advocacy	501
Information/Referral (In Person)	79
Information/Referral (Phone Contact)	279
Emergency Financial Assistance	0
Follow Up Contact	824
Criminal Justice Support/Advocacy	489
Compensation Assistance	1
Transportation	9
Protection order Assistance	109
Cellular Phone Program	0
Other	2
Total Number of Services Provided	2,324
Total Number of Victims Served	754

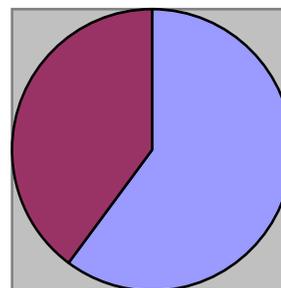
TYPE OF CRIME	# OF VICTIMS SERVED	TYPE OF CRIME	# OF VICTIMS SERVED
Homicide	2	Sexual Assault (Adult)	10
Child Abuse/Physical	13	Domestic Violence	106
Child Abuse/Sexual	29	Incest Survivor	0
DWI/DUI	0	Assault	36
Robbery	5	Elder Abuse	0
Burglary	28	Business	0
Arson	0	Other	397

DEMOGRAPICS

AGE



SEX

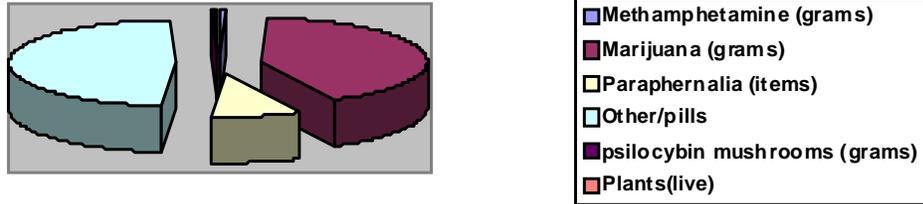


SEADE

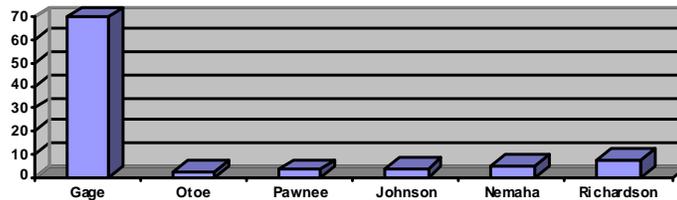
SEADE is a drug task force that operates off of a federal grant administered by the Nebraska Crime Commission. SEADE also receives funding from the six counties that it serves: Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson. SEADE has two full time investigators and a part-time secretary. The following are statistics for the year 2008.

<u>Cases Initiated</u>	92
<u>Confidential Informants</u>	2
<u>Intelligence Reports</u>	83
<u>Arrests</u>	20
<u>Drug Buys Initiated</u>	24
<u>Search Warrants</u>	3

Drugs Seized



The SEADE Task Force serves a six county area. Below is a graph demonstrating cases per county



SEADE continues to proactively combat the drug problem by presenting information to local groups concerning the dangers of drug use. The SEADE Secretary is actively involved in the MAPS Coalition Community Justice Task Force which strives to educate people about the dangers of drug abuse and the resulting consequences. We also strive to promote a healthy relationship between law enforcement and the public.

SEADE saw several successes in 2008. Information received by SEADE Investigators from a participating SEADE agency led to the discovery of a meth lab in which stolen property was recovered solving theft cases in two different counties as well as relieving a county of a very dangerous meth lab. Investigators also took down a rather large marijuana grow operation in the spring of 2008. Several live plants were seized in this operation. SEADE continues to enhance communication and cooperation between the agencies involved in the Task Force's efforts to stop the illegal use and distribution of narcotics.

Bike Patrol

The Beatrice Police Department has 10 officers in our bike patrol unit. Like past years, we participated during Homestead Days, parades, the last day of school, in addition to other community events such as bike rodeos. Bike patrol officers ride in the downtown area and out in the neighborhoods and sometimes we specifically target problem locations. Bike officers do respond to disturbances, accidents and a wide range of calls for service throughout the city.

This year we added a new fully outfitted Trek A300 bicycle to our fleet. Bike officers ride when time and staffing allow and we logged over 50 hours on bikes.



School Resource Officer Program (SRO)

The School Resource Officer Program completed its ninth year of existence in 2008. As in previous years, the SRO program continues to thrive and be beneficial to the Beatrice High School and the Beatrice Middle School, as well as the Beatrice Police Department. In addition, occasional SRO duties at the Beatrice Alternative High School and the Beatrice SKILLS program have enjoyed a high success rate.

The goal of the SRO program is to bridge the gap between students, schools, and the police by becoming a liaison when problems arise. In addition, crime prevention and law enforcement both in and out of the schools are prime ingredients in making our schools a safer place to be. The SRO program enjoys an excellent working relationship with the Superintendent's Office, High School Administration and Staff, and Middle School Administration and Staff. It is due to this excellent working relationship that many crimes in school are prevented from happening or solved after they do.

Reported crime in the Beatrice Public Schools continues to be on the decline, with the two most common crimes being theft and assault. Theft crimes are down again in the Beatrice High School for the fourth year in a row, and this can be attributed to some changes made with the assistance of BHS administration as well as the assistance of student aides placed in areas of frequent theft. Presentations in the classroom continue to be an integral part of the SRO program, and are done on various subjects. Mediation between students also continues to be an excellent tool in preventing crime, particularly assault.

Reported crimes in the Beatrice Middle School are possibly close to an all time low since the inception of the SRO program in 1999, with very few actual crimes being reported in 2008. Many of the problem issues are solved with the assistance of BMS administration prior to the issue rising to the level of a criminal violation. Assaults are down at BMS as well, with the numbers having been reduced by a large percentage in the last few years.

The only criminal issue that appears to be somewhat steady is Truancy arrests, however this is believed to be partially due to the fact that the State Legislature changed and enacted a law in 2005 which requires students to attend school until 18 years of age, instead of 16 years of age. The Truancy arrests do not appear to be age specific however, and are occurring at both the Middle School and High School level. Continued education and enforcement will be performed with regard to Truancy in order to effectively address and combat this issue.

Overall, the SRO program continues to be a beneficial program to both the Beatrice Public School District and the Beatrice Police Department. I believe that the SRO program will continue to provide quality results for many years to come, and will foster better working relationships between the BPS District and the Beatrice Police Department.

Officer Erin Byrne #322 (School Resource Officer)

Gage County Community Service

The Gage County Community Service Coordinator position was created from grant funds in May of 2003. The program was instituted to assist juveniles and adults who need to complete community service work as required for probation, Juvenile Diversion, or other mandated sentencing.

An orientation is held every other Thursday evening at the Beatrice Police Department. The orientation is designed to prepare the individual for his/her community service work by filling out the appropriate paperwork and discussing the Six Pillars of Character. A 'Test Your Knowledge' quiz is also completed by the juvenile and his/her parent/guardian. The quiz generates discussion and provides information to the orientation participants regarding drugs and alcohol. Once the required paperwork has been reviewed and completed the person receives a copy of area non-profit organizations that are willing to allow the offenders to do community service at their agency. Currently there are 44 agencies participating in the Community Service Program. Individuals attending orientation receive additional handouts in an effort to educate them about the dangers of drug abuse. Parents/guardians attending with their child/children also receive drug education material that is designed specifically for parents.

In 2008, 107 juveniles participated in the Gage County Community Service Program. The total number of community service hours completed for 2008 was 911. The Community Service Coordinator Program continues to grow as more people become aware of and depend on this service.



Police Speaker Service

The Beatrice Police Department has organized a police speaker's program, as part of our community awareness effort. The focus of the program is to help educate the public about various law enforcement related topics. Topics include personal safety, crime prevention and criminal activities, and range from 20 to 60 minutes in length. Sworn personnel prepare the presentations based on their area of expertise. Even though this program is relatively new, it appears to have been well received by those church groups, service clubs, businesses and other community groups that have used the service. Topics include;

- Personal Safety for Women
- Safety on the Internet
- Safety on the Internet for Parents
- Safety on the Internet for Elementary Age Youth
- Safety on the Internet for Teen Age Youth
- Wheel Safety
- Effects of Distracted Driving
- Personal Safety for Adults
- Traveling Safely
- College Campus Safety
- Survival Knowledge Quiz and Discussion
- Protecting Your Identity
- Crime Prevention thru Environmental Design
- Shoplifter Prevention and Apprehension
- Dangerous Drugs Awareness and Effects
- Regulations for Employees of Liquor Establishments
- Meth 360
- P.O.P. and Vehicular Restraints Discussion
- "Your Police Department"



Gage County MAPS – Community Justice Task Force

In the fall of 2005, a number of people and agencies committed to serving youth, families, and individuals in Gage County came together to discuss forming the Gage County Coalition. Several of the leaders involved in forming this coalition are from the Beatrice Police Department. These leaders are committed to unifying their approaches under one body, which they later named M.A.P.S., or Multiple Agencies Partnering for Success.

The mission of Gage County MAPS is to coordinate, enhance, and broaden countywide services that promote healthy attitudes and behaviors for individuals, families, and communities.

Within the MAPS Coalition there are four task force committees. One of the committees is actively represented by four members of the Beatrice Police Department. These individuals include Captain Gerald Lamkin, Investigator Tina Vath, Stephanie Wallman-Community Service Coordinator/SEADE Secretary, and Kerri McGrury-Victim Assistance Coordinator.

The focus areas of the Community Justice Task Force includes:

- Promote healthy attitudes toward alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) among our youth & community members
- Engage community interest surrounding positive law enforcement relationships and ATOD issues

The activities and projects of the Community Justice Task force in 2008 include:

- **The MIP Hotline** – Began operating in April 2007 to present
The MIP Hotline is a confidential hotline that accepts anonymous phone calls from individuals who would like to report an underage drinking party or adults procuring alcohol for minors. Since May 11, 2007 the MIP Hotline has accepted 64 calls. Some calls have resulted in arrests for minor in possession and procuring alcohol for a minor.



- **“Turn on the Light’s” Town Hall Meeting** – April 2008
A town hall meeting on under aged drinking was held at the Beatrice Public Library. The event was attended by approximately 40 individuals, including youth.
- **“You Have Everything to Lose” Campaign** – Spring 2008 to present
This campaign consisted of billboards, posters, radio ads, postcard mailing, etc. Signs could be seen in schools and roadsides throughout Gage County.



- **Letters to parents of Junior & Senior students in Gage County** - Spring 2008
A letter was sent to all the parents of Junior and Senior High School students in Gage County. The letter consisted of information on alcohol use by teens during the prom and graduation season. We included an information sheet on the Nebraska state statutes relating to under aged drinking (MIP, DUI, procuring and contributing).
- **Radio Advertising** – Spring 2008 and Winter Holiday’s 2008
Chief Bruce Lang and Captain Jerry Lamkin recorded several radio ads for MAPS. The ads in the spring focused on parents, and relayed a message of “don’t provide alcohol” to children. The winter ads promoted safe celebrations during the holidays.
- **Annual “Gage County Guide to Drugs and Alcohol”** – May 2008
This guide provides information on under aged drinking and drug use in Gage County and offers a prevention message for the whole community.
- **Education to Community about the Nebraska Social Host Law** – July 2008
When this law was passed, the coalition provided information to the community in newspaper ads, radio spots, etc. to educate people on the new law impacting the selling or serving alcohol to adults and minors.
- **Meth 360 Training** – August 2008
Officer Coon and Investigator Vath attended Meth 360 training in Grand Island, Nebraska. They have been trained to do community Meth 360 presentations. The program’s goal is to unite communities in the fight against methamphetamine.
- **National Night Out** – August 2008
- **Pharmaceutical Take-Back Event** – October 11, 2008
The event was held at the Beatrice Public School Administration Building Parking Lot. This event was held in conjunction with Keep Beatrice Beautiful. This event allowed citizens to bring and properly dispose of past pharmaceuticals that they were no longer using.
- **Juvenile Justice Plan** – October 2008
This committee assisted with revising Gage County’s Juvenile Justice Plan. This plan is a requirement for receiving funding for Gage County Diversion and the Community Service Program.
- **MADD Victim Impact Panel** – Various times in 2008
Volunteers from this committee assisted MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) with registration at the Holiday Inn, in Beatrice. The victim impact panel is a requirement for offenders who are arrested for DUI and placed on probation.
- **Safe Homes Parents Network** – Material has been distributed in various places
Safe Homes Parents Network provides parents and guardians an opportunity to unite in a clear message to all youth that there will be NO USE of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by youth in the community.

National Night Out 2008

The Beatrice Police Department participated in National Night Out on August 5, 2008. Attendance was high in spite of the heat. This event is designed to:

- Heighten drug and crime prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back



Tug of War



Tug of War

National Night Out was a coordinated effort involving the Gage County Community Justice Task Force, the Beatrice Police & Fire Departments, Gage County Sheriff's Office, and Nebraska State Patrol. A highlight of this year's National Night Out was the tug of war between the Beatrice Police Department and Beatrice Fire and Rescue. The Police came out on top until Chief Lang invited the children in attendance to get on the rope on Fire & Rescue's end. After the 'pull-off' and an ensuing victory by the Fire Department, Chief Lang pointed out that when we work together as a community anything is possible; it becomes a win-win for everyone. This year's National Night Out featured cotton candy, snow cone, and popcorn machines as well as a bounce house sponsored by our local Fraternal Order of Police Lodge. There were many free activities for families to take part in. Other special features at this year's National Night Out were the rock climbing wall, Officer Reiss's race car, and the Beatrice Police Department crime scene/mobile command vehicle.

Several agencies contributed to the overall success of the event. Agencies had information and resources available to distribute or a fun, interactive activity for families to participate in. In addition to games, there were free balloons and rub on tattoos. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) gave away car window shades as well. Valentino's provided the pizza and drinks for participants to purchase.

The following agencies provided displays and/or support at the event:

- Gage County Sheriff's Department Reserve Deputies
- Beatrice Fire and Rescue
- Beatrice Police Department
- Fraternal Order Of Police (FOP) Lodge 45
- Gage County Crimestoppers
- Nebraska National Guard
- Nebraska State Patrol
- Gage County Victim Assistance
- Gage County United Way
- Hope Crisis Center
- Gage County Extension/4-H
- Noon Kiwanis
- American Legion Auxiliary
- MADD
- Gage County MAPS Coalition
- Dogs Deserve Better
- First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Husqvarna Turf Care
- Salvation Army
- SE Nebraska Adult Drug Court
- Southwick Chiropractic

There were approximately 450 people in attendance.



Investigator Vath & Officer Morabito working the bounce house



Officer Reiss & his race car



Sgt. Lenners on the National Guard Climbing Wall