

LA GRANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Memorandum



To: Andrianna Peterson, Village Manager
From: Kurt Bluder, Chief of Police
Date: September 21, 2020
Re: Monthly Report for August 2020

August was one of the busiest months for the Police Department since the start of the pandemic. As outdoor activity increased, so did calls for service. Below is a summary of the Police Department's activity for the month of August.

On Tuesday morning, at approximately 6:23 a.m., August 4, 2020, Sergeant Steve Ljubenko, located an unoccupied Infiniti QX60, in the 500 block of Edgewood Avenue (47th and Edgewood), that was left running. Upon checking the vehicle's registration, Sergeant Ljubenko determined that the vehicle was reported stolen from Chicago. The vehicle had been abandoned at that location.

A short time later, a vehicle was reported stolen from the garage of a residence in the 400 block of Edgewood Avenue that occurred sometime overnight from Monday, August 3, 2020, to Tuesday, August 4, 2020. The stolen vehicle, a silver, 2019, Audi Q8, with Illinois license plates, had been left unsecured, in the home's garage, with the key fob inside the car. Although the garage was locked, it appears the offender(s) entered an unsecured vehicle in the driveway and utilized the garage door opener to gain access to the garage and, subsequently, to the Audi.

On Monday, August 10th, the Village was impacted by severe weather that brought with it significant winds. The Police Department assisted the Fire Department on several calls for wires down. The Police Department also posted weather and informational updates on its Facebook page during/after the storm event.

Due to exhausting the current Police Officer Eligibility Register, the Police Department began accepting application for the position of Police Officer on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. This is the first step in the process of establishing a new Police Officer Eligibility List. The police department contracted with I/O Solutions, out of Oak Brook to manage this process. I/O Solutions completed the advertising, oversaw the application process, and will be administering the exam. The written exam will take place on Saturday, October 10th at the LT North Campus. IO Solutions posted the application and testing process on their website at [IO Solutions La Grange PD](#) and placed an ad on the Black Collegian Online.

In addition, the Police Department posted an ad on The Blue Line at [La Grange PD](#) and shared this information with the criminal justice departments at Lewis University, Moraine Valley Community College, College of DuPage, and Western Illinois University.

On Wednesday evening, August 19th, the La Grange Police Department responded to a report of two vehicles involved in a head-on collision on Ogden Avenue just east of Burlington Avenue. The preliminary investigation indicated that a white Ford Escape, driven by a Brookfield resident, was traveling eastbound on Ogden Avenue just east of Burlington Avenue prior to the collision. The second vehicle, a blue GMC pickup truck, driven by Dino Chico, 59 years of age, from Brookfield, IL, was traveling westbound on Ogden Avenue just east of Burlington Avenue. For reasons unknown, the westbound vehicle driven by Mr. Chico crossed over the double yellow lines of Ogden Avenue and into eastbound lanes, colliding with the Ford Escape.

Both drivers sustained serious injuries and were transported to local medical facilities. Mr. Chico was pronounced dead after being transported to Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. The investigation into the accident is still ongoing and the Cook County Medical Examiner will make the final determination as to the cause of death. The Illinois State Police is assisting with the reconstruction of the accident.

On Monday, August 24th, the Countryside Police Department transitioned to the Lyons Township Area Communications Center for their dispatch services. Countryside Police Department will be sharing a radio frequency with the La Grange, La Grange Park, and Western Springs Police Departments. This transition began about a year ago and required the implementation of infrastructure, software, and training. Staff is excited to be working with the Countryside Police.

As reported on Sunday, August 23, 2020, the La Grange Police Department investigated a report of shots fired at a house in the 0 to 100 block of Washington. The incident occurred at about 9:10 p.m. on Sunday, August 23, 2020. There were no reported injuries and it appears that a specific residence was the target. Based on current information, the Police Department does not believe there is a threat to the general public. The investigation is ongoing.

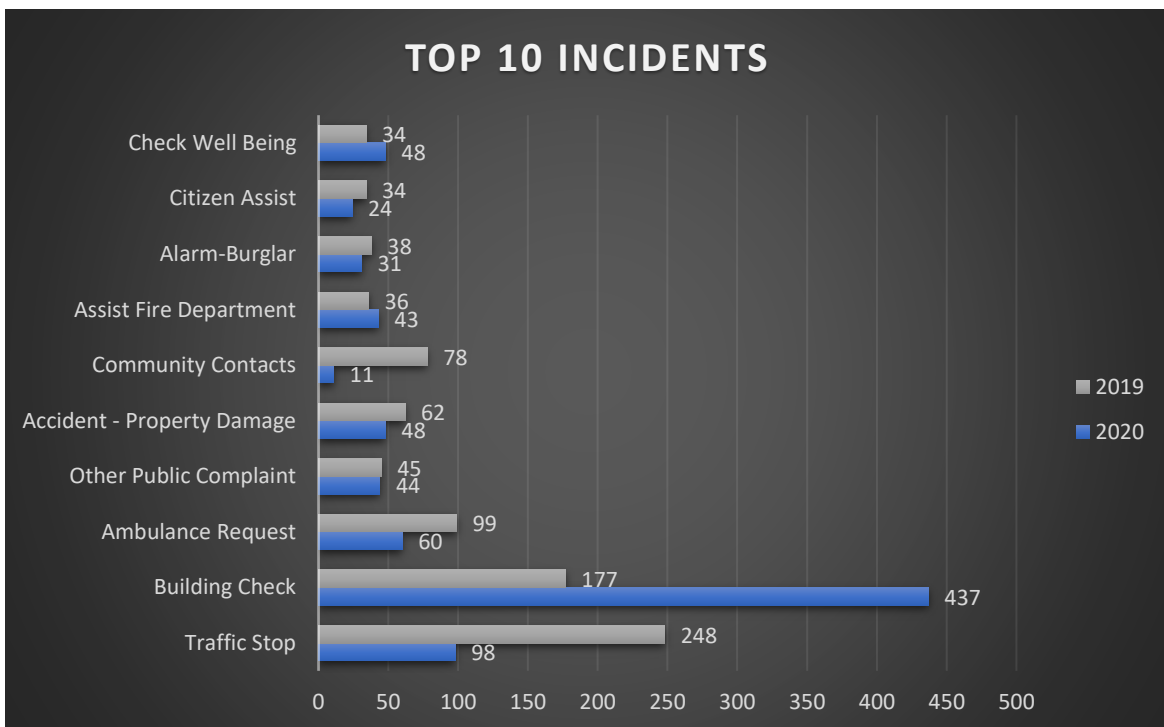
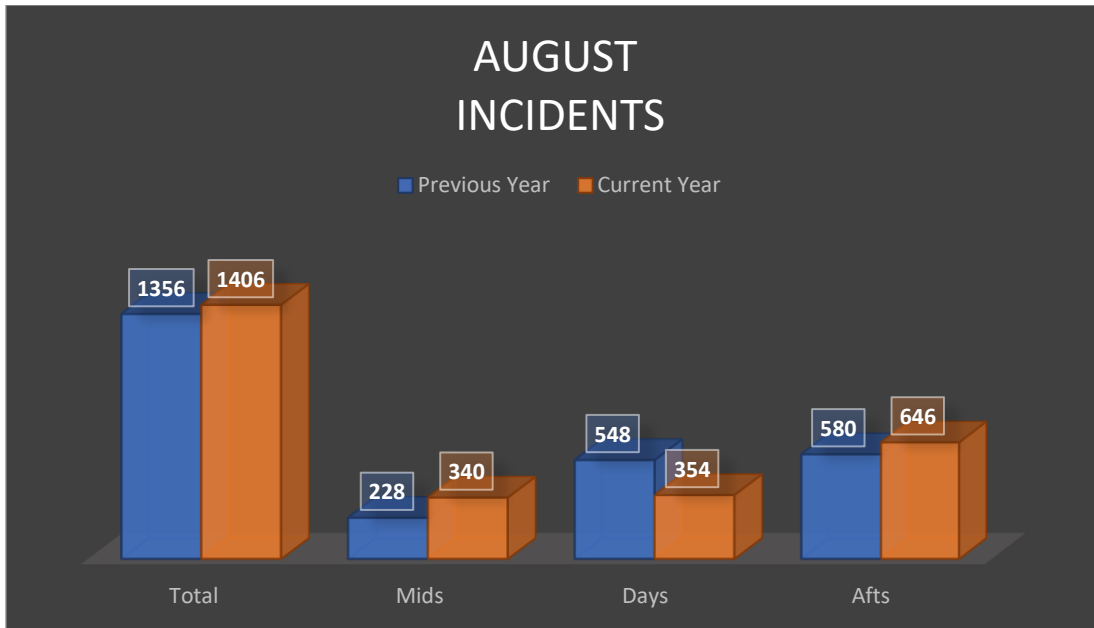


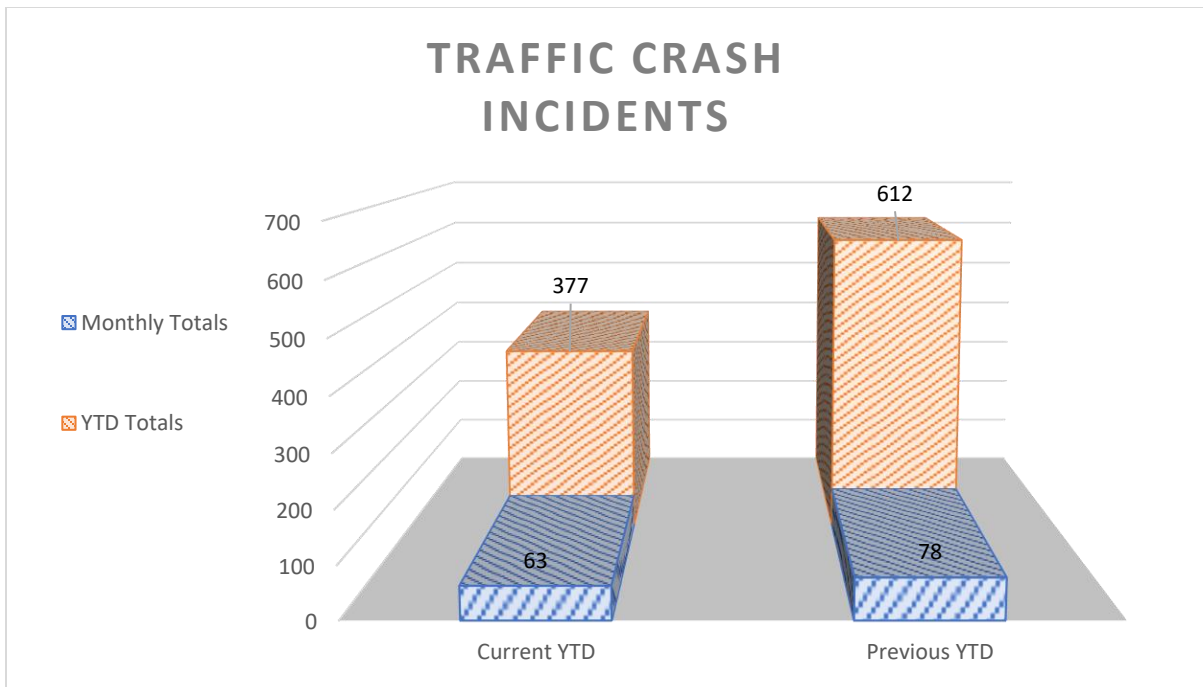
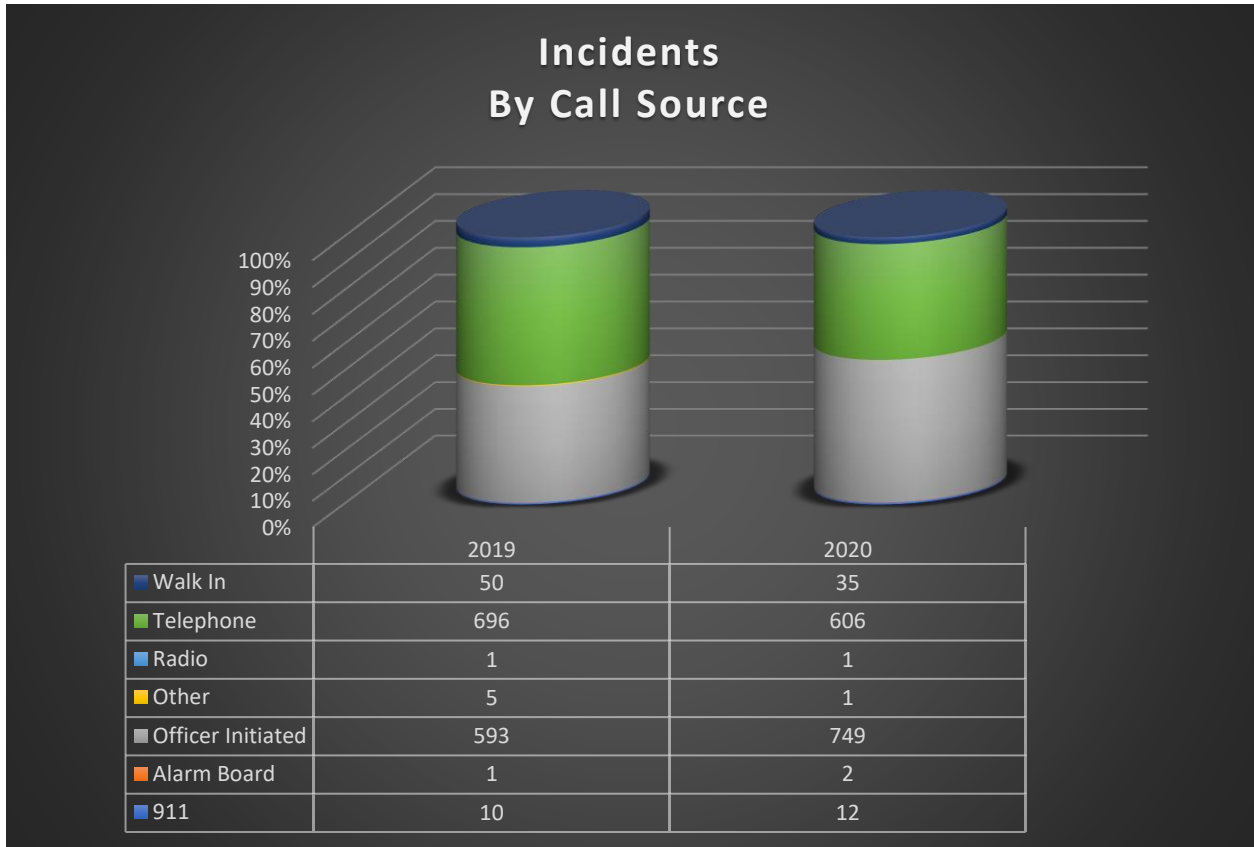
At the end of August, Probationary Police Officer Casey Gomorzak began his sixth of fourteen weeks of training at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy (SLEA), which is located on the campus of the College of DuPage.



As part of the police department's "Be the Change, Travel Safe in La Grange" traffic safety campaign, the police department deployed its electronic message board beginning Monday, August 24th, reminding motorists to be aware of pedestrians. The sign was placed at La Grange and Ogden for the week of August 24th, for St. Francis, and then moved to La Grange and Elm for the week of August 31st, to coincide with the start of school for District 102.







August Training

On Monday, August 24th, Officer Ryan Nemecek attended the 40-hour Basic Traffic Crash Investigation class. This course is primarily intended for patrol officers who handle routine traffic crash investigations on a daily basis but it also serves as an introduction to more advanced traffic crash investigation techniques and courses. Some topics covered in the class are basic traffic crash mathematics, collision dynamics, including skidmark/tire-mark identification, collecting and documenting physical evidence from the vehicle, effective prosecutions and court presentations and demonstration/comparisons of advancements in traffic crash investigation technology.

On Thursday, August 27th, Squad Leader Edgar Herrera and Officer Scott Wolf attended a class on Trauma Informed Response to Sexual Assault. The one day class educates officers on the complexities of sexual assault investigations, including misperceptions about sexual assault victims and offenders, reluctance to report the crime, how trauma impacts the manner in which victims are able to report and how best to support sexual assault victims during their encounter with law enforcement. The class was sponsored by NEMRT and was held at the Darien Police Department.

August Case Table

Case Date	Case Type	Case Officer	Status
08/01/2020 16:37:28	Deceptive Practice	245 – Irizarry	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/02/2020 21:43:24	Disorderly Conduct	244 – Coleman	Closed - Low Solvability
08/03/2020 12:41:56	Committal - Involuntary	236 – Uher	TOT Other Agency
08/03/2020 18:03:38	Theft	252 – Falls	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/03/2020 19:35:24	Theft	252 – Falls	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/04/2020 06:20:16	Recovered Stolen Vehicle	225 - Ljubenko	Closed - Low Solvability
08/04/2020 07:49:13	Burglary	235 – Rogers	TOT Other Agency
08/04/2020 21:41:21	Death Investigation	244 – Coleman	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/05/2020 14:30:16	Identity Theft	235 – Rogers	Closed - Low Solvability
08/07/2020 09:57:53	Deceptive Practice	255 – Piraino	Closed - Low Solvability
08/08/2020 10:11:17	Check Well Being	235 – Rogers	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/09/2020 11:49:59	Theft	250 - Nemecek	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/09/2020 21:52:19	Traffic Control	242 - Comstock	Closed By Arrest
08/10/2020 03:12:52	Criminal Damage	254 - Cassiberry	Closed - Low Solvability
08/11/2020 09:20:34	Identity Theft	235 – Rogers	Closed - Low Solvability
08/11/2020 19:15:00	Deceptive Practice	245 – Irizarry	Closed - Low Solvability
08/12/2020 12:54:30	Disorderly Conduct	235 – Rogers	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/12/2020 17:00:12	Identity Theft	248 - McDermott	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/13/2020 20:12:00	Theft	248 - McDermott	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/13/2020 21:34:57	Theft	245 – Irizarry	Pending
08/14/2020 08:24:16	Theft	255 – Piraino	Closed - Low Solvability
08/14/2020 08:26:07	Theft	230 – Burrell	Closed - Report Purposes Only

08/14/2020 12:32:35	Identity Theft	255 – Piraino	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/15/2020 08:18:47	Property - Found Articles	232 - Moncivais	Pending
08/17/2020 10:40:38	Theft	200 – Rohlicek	Closed - Low Solvability
08/17/2020 14:37:15	Suspicious Activity	235 – Rogers	Closed - Low Solvability
08/18/2020 17:51:26	Disorderly Conduct	245 – Irizarry	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/19/2020 10:18:15	Disorderly Conduct	235 – Rogers	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/19/2020 11:05:37	Burglary to Vehicle	230 – Burrell	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/19/2020 13:51:10	Criminal Damage	230 – Burrell	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/19/2020 18:05:33	Disorderly Conduct	245 – Irizarry	Closed - Low Solvability
08/19/2020 18:40:04	Theft	245 – Irizarry	Closed - Low Solvability
08/19/2020 19:05:53	Accident – Death	253 – Kaiser	TOT Other Agency
08/19/2020 21:25:49	Disturbance - Domestic	252 – Falls	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/20/2020 11:51:17	Missing Person	230 – Burrell	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/24/2020 15:07:15	Death Investigation	248 - McDermott	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/24/2020 17:56:42	Identity Theft	242 - Comstock	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/27/2020 09:15:09	Disorderly Conduct	230 – Burrell	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/27/2020 11:18:41	Disturbance - Domestic	255 – Piraino	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/27/2020 18:19:59	Disturbance - Domestic	253 – Kaiser	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/27/2020 21:13:36	Deceptive Practice	245 – Irizarry	Pending
08/29/2020 11:14:15	Disorderly Conduct	235 – Rogers	Closed - Report Purposes Only
08/30/2020 08:03:43	Theft	235 – Rogers	Closed - Low Solvability

DAYSHIFT ACTIVITIES

ARRESTS:

NO ARRESTS

OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY:

The dayshift shift officers completed 50 traffic contacts and 19 Illinois traffic crash reports; all 19 crashes were property damage only, with no injuries claimed. The shift officers issued 34 parking/compliance citations for no village vehicle sticker, other parking violations, and minor traffic violations. They conducted 89-foot patrols. Dayshift Officers investigated: 2 burglaries, 5 theft reports, 3 identity thefts, 1 criminal damage to property, 4 Disorderly Conduct, 1 domestic, 1 involuntary committal, 1 missing person, and 1 deceptive practice case reports.

The following schools began a hybrid method of schooling for their students during this month of August: School district 102, which includes Cossitt School, Ogden Ave School, and Park Jr, High along with St. Francis Xavier School, began face-to-face learning. The day shift officers placed more emphasis on the schools as they opened providing extra patrols.

Due to the restrictions with the Covid-19 and social distancing requirements, the shift members were issued proper Protective Equipment that consisted of N95 masks, glasses, and were told to use gloves in situations consistent with CDC recommendations.

During this month, shift members were visible on the main streets to deter traffic violators. They monitored parks checking for the social distancing recommendations from CDC.

TRAINING:

Ofc. Nemecek attended a 40-hour training course for traffic crash investigation level 1.

Shift members completed Police Law and Lexipol daily training bulletins for the month of August.

AFTERNOON SHIFT ACTIVITIES

INVESTIGATIONS:

Sgt. Wardlaw, Sgt. Coleman, Ofc. Irizarry, Ofc. Falls, Ofc. Kaiser and Inv. Kang investigated a traffic crash at Ogden Ave/Burlington Ave. State Police assisted with a traffic crash reconstruction report. One of the drivers later passed away as a result of the crash.

Sgt. Wardlaw, SL McDermott, Ofc. Comstock, Ofc. Falls and Ofc. Kaiser responded to shots fired call in the 0 to 100 block of Washington. Inv. Fulla and Inv. Kang responded to process the scene and assist in the investigation. Case pending.

ARREST / CITATIONS:

The Afternoon Shift completed 201 building checks for the month of August, averaging 6.84 per day. Additionally, the Afternoon Shift conducted 46 traffic stops. Ofc. Comstock arrested a 29-year-old male for traffic offenses including driving while license suspended/revoked.

OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY:

Afternoon Shift Officers responded to 646 calls for service, completed 40 initial case reports, 12 supplement reports, and 1 arrest report.

TRAINING:

N/A

MIDNIGHT SHIFT ACTIVITIES

ARRESTS:

None

OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY:

The Midnight shift completed 16 traffic contacts and investigated 2 property damage traffic accidents and 1 personal injury traffic accident. Shift Officers issued 20 parking citations for overnight parking and other violations. Shift Officers conducted 249 Building/Business/Special Watch Premise Checks and Foot Patrols. In addition, Ofc. Niewold, as a member of the NIPAS Mobile Field Force, once again responded to a call out to assist the Evanston P.D. with a possible

citizen protest/demonstration in response to the police-involved shooting that occurred in Kenosha, WI.

TRAINING:

The shift continued completing the monthly Police Law Institute online training lessons, along with the monthly Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins. In addition, Ofc. Niewold, Ofc. Wolf and S/L Herrera completed the 8-hour Trauma-Informed Response to Sexual Assault/Abuse Incidents training course.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION ACTIVITIES

INVESTIGATIONS:

Inv. Fulla and Inv. Kang, assisted by the Major Case Assistance Team and Hazel Crest PD, located and recovered a vehicle previously reported stolen from La Grange without incident. No suspect was taken into custody at this time and the investigation is ongoing. Case pending.

Inv. Kang assisted the Afternoon Shift and the Illinois State Police with a Fatal Crash Investigation on Ogden Ave just east of Hillgrove Ave. Inv. Kang also coordinated with the Cook County Medical examiner's office. Case pending.

ARREST / CITATIONS:

N/A

OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY:

Inv. Fulla attended the monthly Major Case Assistance Team meeting hosted by Willow Springs PD

Inv. Kang assisted Summit PD during a South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force activation in relation to a Homicide. Assistance was given without incident.

Inv. Fulla and Inv. Kang continued working on backgrounds on 4 police applicants with 1 new police applicants backgrounds added. In total, they are currently working on 5 backgrounds while handling criminal investigations.

AUXILIARY AND PART-TIME POLICE UNITS

The Auxiliary Unit was inactive during the month of August due to the COVID-19 pandemic so the Police Department does not have anything to report related to their activities.

The part-time officers responded to 14 calls for service in the community. The part-time officers' activity is lower than usual because they were assigned to the parking deck and downtown area for patrol duties as well as due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PARKING DIVISION

The parking division registered \$8,485 in parking fines through conventional payments, online payments, or collection efforts.

**TRUCK ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS
August 2020**

Location	Date	Time	Result			Equipment	Moving	License/Reg	Weight	Insurance	
La Grange Rd	CBD	08/03/20	C	W		1	1				
		08/27/20	6:28	C			1				
		08/05/20		C	C	C	1	2			
	3	Sub-total by Area									
Ogden Ave	East - La Grange Rd	08/27/20	5:44	C	W			2			
		08/29/20		C	C	C	1	1	1		
		08/05/20	13:05	C				1			
	3	Sub-total by Area									
	La Grange & West	08/29/20		W	W	W	2	1			
		1	Sub-total by Area								
	Other	East Ave	08/27/20		C	C		2			
08/05/20				C	C		1	1			
2			Sub-total by Area								
47th Street		08/27/20		C	W		1	1			
		1	Sub-total by Area								
Other		08/27/20		W	W		1	1			
		08/31/20		W	W		2				
2	Sub-total by Area				12	10	3	0	0		

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

PATROL ACTIVITIES	August		August		2020	2019
	2020		2019		YTD	YTD
NUMBER OF CALLS TAKEN	1,406		1,309		8,793	9,356
ACCIDENT REPORTS TAKEN	48		62		314	466
FELONY ARRESTS	0		0		5	8
MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS	0		1		18	25
DUI ARRESTS	0		2		9	9
WARRANT ARRESTS	0		1		11	13
TRAFFIC VERBAL WARNINGS	41		177		623	1,567
COMPLIANCE CITATIONS ISSUED	38		51		315	426
TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED	19		55		217	418
PARKING TICKETS - by Officers	26	310	182	903	3,575	6,984
PARKING TICKETS - by Parking Div.	284		721			
JUVENILE ARRESTS	0		0		7	5
PRISONERS HELD IN LOCK-UP	1		7		55	69

The activity was down this month due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Officers have increased some self-initiated activity but are still practicing social distancing when possible and are minimizing contact/interaction with the general public.