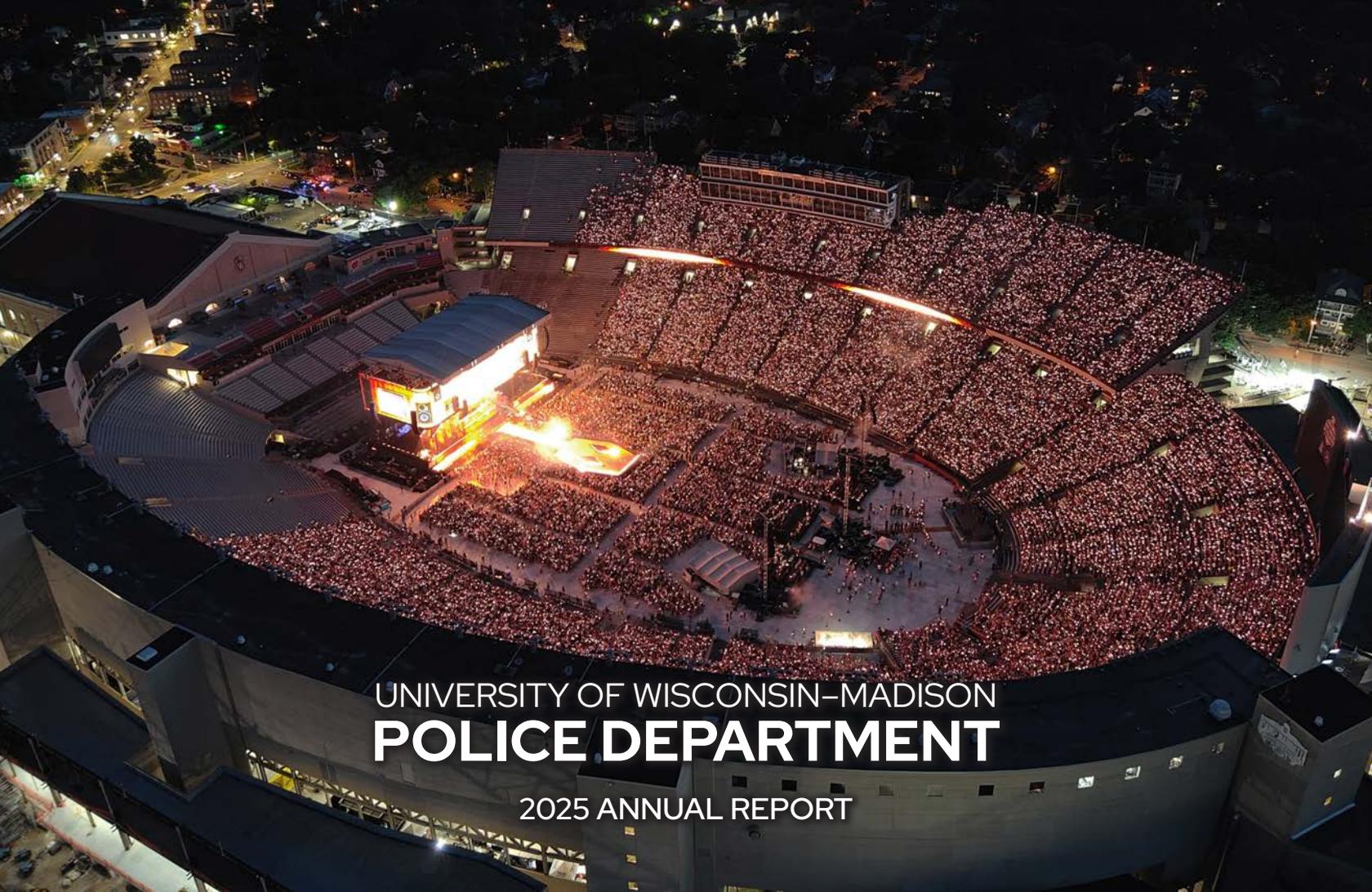




UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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EXIT

EXIT

WARNING  
SECURITY CAMERA  
DO NOT OPEN  
PLEASE

CAUTION  
SECURITY CAMERA  
DO NOT OPEN  
PLEASE

POLICE

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## MESSAGE FROM CHIEF PLISCH



I am pleased to present the UW–Madison Police Department’s 2025 Annual Report. I hope you find it informative and useful.

Throughout 2025, our department set ambitious goals grounded in our core mission: protecting the safety and well-being of the UW–Madison community. Our multidisciplinary team worked closely with campus and community partners to achieve these goals while being responsible stewards of our resources and continually strengthening relationships in support of campus safety.

Key accomplishments this year included supporting the safe return of concerts at Camp Randall Stadium; conducting advanced training with external public safety partners focused on active-killer response; modernizing campus access control systems; replacing nearly 2,000 end-of-life security cameras; partnering with other system schools to provide an infrastructure security focused prevention course, and expanding active-threat training opportunities for our campus community.

Equally important, we strengthened relationships across campus and beyond. We met with each UW–Madison dean to better understand how we can support their schools and units, provided educational presentations to shared governance groups and academic and administrative partners, and increased our engagement with victims of crime to improve case outcomes and ensure survivors received the support and resources they need.

We also made significant investments in our organizational culture. With input from all members of the department, we adopted new values, a vision, and a mission statement. We expanded our focus on the mental, physical, financial, and relational well-being of our employees and began a renewed commitment to succession planning and leadership development. These efforts are essential to maintaining a strong, professional team not just capable of but viewed as a leader in providing a high standard of public safety.

While we are proud of this progress, much work remains. Political polarization, evolving public expectations, recruitment and retention challenges, and rapid changes in technology all shape the future of policing. To meet these challenges, we must continue to deepen our partnerships with the community, invest in developing future leaders, and responsibly adopt new tools to prevent, investigate, and respond to crime in lawful and ethical ways.

On behalf of the UW–Madison Police Department, thank you for your continued support, collaboration, and trust. Together, we are helping make UW–Madison a safer place to live, learn, work, and visit.

On, Wisconsin!



Brent Plisch  
Chief of Police





## **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to provide public safety to the UW–Madison community. We are committed to providing exceptional service that upholds the law, protects and respects rights, and promotes well-being.

## **OUR VISION**

Together, we strive to be a national leader in public safety by using values-based approaches and collaborative strategies involving our entire community to ensure the safety and well-being of UW–Madison. Further, we are dedicated to the growth and support of all our employees, empowering them to succeed, enabling them to develop professionally, and encouraging them to attain wellness.

## OUR CORE VALUES

### INTEGRITY & HONESTY

We are dedicated to doing the right thing even when it's difficult, our actions are based on strong moral principles and adhere the highest ethical standards.

### TRUST & RESPECT

We strive to build confidence in our service and are committed to equity, inclusion, and fairness in all our interactions.

### EMPATHY & COMPASSION

We seek to connect with others on a human level, recognizing differences, and willing to help those in need.

### ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

We take responsibility for our individual and collective actions and decisions. We are committed to being open and upfront about our actions and decisions.

### SAFETY & GUARDIANSHIP

We work to create a secure environment where individuals feel safe and protected. We make the well-being of our community and UWPD employees an important priority.



## WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2025

- More than 110,000 combined calls for police, security, and dispatch (including calls for service, traffic stops, locking doors, and calls handled by dispatch).
- UWPD Field Services collected 483 food items and raised almost \$1000 to support campus and local food banks.
- Led the successful enterprise rollout of Workday for UWPD and the UW System, ensuring operational continuity and a seamless transition through strategic planning and cross functional coordination.
- Developed and launched family engagement initiatives that reinforced organizational culture, strengthened employee connection, and supported long term retention.
- Completed a major campus project to replace nearly 2,000 outdated or end of life security cameras.
- Successfully completed the four year inspection cycle to achieve recertification of our agency's accreditation through IACLEA.
- Supported Athletics and campus with the planning, coordination, and execution of the return of concerts to Camp Randall Stadium -- implemented best practices and continued to evolve to meet growing demands
- Continued to refine and improve the planning, communications, operational readiness, and consistent strategies to protect expressive activities while ensuring alignment with the UW mission.



## OUR GOALS FOR 2025-26

- Continue to develop and participate in educational and enforcement efforts to improve campus safety.
- Focus on employee wellness and foster a culture of continued professional development.
- Drive enterprise alignment by partnering across units to evaluate and integrate technology solutions that streamline operations, strengthen organizational performance, and enhance service delivery.
- Elevate the organization's talent strategy by strengthening recruitment capabilities and implementing retention initiatives that support a high performing, engaged workforce.
- Complete the major campus project to add access control to all 60+ campus buildings that did not already have it in place in order to provide for the safety and security of the campus community.
- Complete annual inspections from CALEA and WILEAG to ensure UWPD remains triply accredited.
- Complete the formal creation and integration of a Campus Care and Support Team (CCST) into campus operations in order to provide support to the campus community in the aftermath of a critical incident.
- Finalize the MOU, budget impacts, training, and equipment necessary to implement Emergency Medical Responder certification for UWPD Lake Rescue & Safety for the 2026 season.
- Successfully coordinate the largest ever transition and up-fitting of vehicles in the UWPD fleet while balancing operational demands.





May 29, 2025 - Police Officers Devan Arbay and Connor Cunningham were two of 14 recipients from across the state of Wisconsin who were presented Green Bay Packers Protect & Serve Awards. As part of their award and recognition, each received \$2,000 -- both donated the monetary award to local charities.

## CHIEF PLISCH SWORN-IN

On March 16, 2025, Brent Plisch became the next chief for the UW–Madison Police Department. Chief Plisch, who was named interim chief in February 2024, was officially sworn-in at a department ceremony on April 21.

During his time at UW–Madison, Chief Plisch has been involved in nearly all facets of public safety provided by UWPD, including field trainer, K9 handler, community liaison, and various leadership levels. Prior to his appointment to interim chief of police, Plisch served as the assistant chief for administration and support, with leadership oversight of emergency management, access control and video systems, human resources, finances, IT, and professional standards.

“With nearly 20 years of experience working for the UWPD, Brent Plisch has a deep understanding of current issues facing UW–Madison and the surrounding community,” said Rob Cramer, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. “Plisch’s time as interim chief of police has provided him the opportunity to refine his leadership skills and further connect with the UW–Madison and surrounding community. I’ve been appreciative of Chief Plisch’s willingness to engage across our different constituencies to build a safer campus for everyone.”

Plisch said UWPD will continue to focus on building relationships, learning about the campus community’s expectations, and finding new ways to engage UWPD staff so the community is prepared to meet future challenges together.

Prior to Plisch joining UWPD in June 2005 as a police officer, he was a captain in the United States Army. He has a bachelor’s degree from Winona State University a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh.



## **PATROL**

Our police officers remained busy throughout 2025 – responding to more than 26,000 calls for service, collaborating with our campus and community partners on a variety of projects, initiatives, and presentations, and working as a team to ensure we provide exceptional public safety services to our students, staff, faculty, visitors, and neighbors.

Officers focused on both addressing immediate public safety concerns and proactively problem-solving and preventing problems that negatively impact the quality of life of our campus community. We were excited to continue many of our UWPD community initiatives – “Be Bright” bike lights, “MedDrop” boxes, Coffee with a Cop, customized safety and education trainings throughout campus, our Housing liaison program, and traveling shift briefings. We’re always looking for additional opportunities to build new partnerships and start new traditions.

### **2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Handled a high volume of service calls with an emphasis on proactive campus engagement and problem-solving.
- Enhanced community trust through positive contacts and problem solving, including advanced support for individuals in crisis through partnership with the CARES team and improved coordination with campus partners.
- Demonstrated strong investigative performance by quickly identifying suspects in several significant cases, leading to faster resolutions, development of patrol officer skills, and reduced follow up workload for investigative units.
- Completed 26,100 calls for service, including 3,230 traffic stops and 60 OWI stops.
- Worked collaboratively with University Housing partners to advance the Housing liaison program.
- Dedicated efforts in conducting OWI and speed grant initiatives.
- Continued preparedness efforts through Active Shooter Incident Management training with Madison Fire.

## COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The UWPD dispatch team is a group of dedicated professionals who work in a highly paced environment. They are responsible for dispatching calls, monitoring cameras and alarms, answering 911 and non-emergency calls, and handling radio communication — often doing these tasks simultaneously. Not only do they take care of people on the other end of the phone or radio by providing pertinent information, but they also proactively go out into the community to provide public education to campus associates, further strengthening community partnerships.

### 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 56,322 calls handled - approximately 154 daily calls (265 calls on our busiest day).
- Public Education Team continued to work with the campus community, attending events with Housing and FP&M, and presenting to staff at Memorial Union and Transportation Services.
- Received 192 Chat Requests through BadgerSAFE, with 100 conversations started.
- Held multiple team training events, including active threat training, technology updates, HAZMAT training, team building, and virtual training to improve call management skills.
- Provided radio communications during planned and unplanned events in Command Posts and Operations Centers, and recently began assisting with Kohl Center events.
- Continued to use extensive knowledge of campus cameras to provide investigative leads for officers for crimes and traffic incidents, and assisted in the life-saving effort to find a person who fell through the ice.
- Continued active threat planning and collaboration with community and public safety partners.
- Upgraded the 911 system to ESINet (Emergency Services IP Network) for increased interoperability, improved redundancy, and more accurate caller location information.

## SECURITY

The Security team stayed proactive in 2025 and added many new members to the team. Several also attended Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design training, enhancing the team's ability to provide proactive reports to campus partners on how to better secure their buildings or spaces on campus. Security continues to play a vital role in navigating the buildings on campus and assisting students, staff, and faculty when they are locked out of their building. Our Security Team also plays a critical role in water leaks or other maintenance issues before they become larger and more expensive problems.

### 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 28,518 calls for service; 10,467 locking doors; 1,718 lock outs; 265 open doors.
- Provided dedicated security coverage for HSLC, Primate Research Center, and the Chazen Museum of Art.
- Protected museum exhibits during multiple temporary installations, including *Toshiko Takaezu: World Within, Cuestiones Caribeñas/ Caribbean Matters* by Pablo Delano, and *Corpus* by Anamika Singh.
- Supported the Access Control Team by inspecting and verifying the functionality of electronic access hardware.
- Completed professional development initiatives, including CPTED training for two supervisors and four officers.
- Conducted multiple Complete Building Checks (CBC's) for buildings on campus to improve security and aid in building maintenance.
- Strengthen partnerships with Building Managers with in-person meetings to review CBC's completed from 2nd and 3rd shift.
- Five new security officers completed and passed training and were assigned to first, power, and second shifts.
- Collaborated with Physical Plant to revamp the campus Light Survey, improving nighttime safety.



## **INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**

The Investigative Services Unit is made up of Detectives, Digital Forensic Investigator, Threat Intervention Services, Clery compliance staff, Court Liaison, and a Property Custodian Officer.

The team actively works with patrol officers and neighboring agencies to investigate and solve a variety of crimes, provide department training, and provide community resources.

### **2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 293 cases referred to the DA's office for criminal cases; 90 City of Madison Municipal Court citations issued.
- 23 referrals to Dane County Restorative Court (CRC).
- 54 UW students referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) for medical amnesty.
- Threat Services received 141 concerns of threats to campus.
- Clery staff trained thousands of Campus Security Authorities and successfully published the Annual Crime Report in the fall.
- Assigned approximately 516 criminal cases for follow-up.



March 21, 2025 - Investigative Services Capt. Cherise Caradine congratulates UYPD Detective Kyle Van Haren on his graduation from IACP's Leadership in Police Organizations training program

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The UWPD Emergency Management (EM) Unit, part of the UWPD Professional Standards & Planning Unit, leads the UW–Madison campus in planning and preparing for critical incidents and emergencies. The EM Unit works not only with UW-Madison, but also the many campuses within the Universities of Wisconsin. The EM Unit conducts training and exercises each year to ensure campus is ready for a wide variety of emergencies or incidents.

## 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2025, the EM Unit continued to support multiple critical alerting technologies for campus, including BadgerSAFE, Alertus, and WiscAlerts. BadgerSAFE, the campus safety app reaching almost 46,000 subscribers.
- In July 2025, the EM Unit hosted the Wisconsin Collegiate Emergency Management conference at UW-Stout. The conference theme was Recovery: Rebuilding a Stronger Campus and Community. The conference provided valuable networking opportunities for EM professionals.
- The EM Unit led numerous trainings on our new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) structure, the Incident Support Model. The Emergency Operations Center is used to centralize the coordination of emergency response resources when critical incidents occur on campus.
- The EM Unit had a key planning role in the Camp Randall concert series and numerous other special events on campus. The EM Unit takes the lead on Emergency Action Plans for Special Events that require UWPD support.



## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Professional Standards Unit is part of the UWPD Professional Standards & Planning Unit and serves as a key point of contact between UWPD and the community, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with all relevant laws, policies, and law enforcement best practices. The team manages public records requests, community feedback, and triple accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), and the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG).

### 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2025, the Professional Standards team processed 1,034 public records requests while also managing community inquiries, compliments, and complaints.
- In 2025, the Professional Standards team reviewed and updated all UWPD written directives to ensure they complied with all relevant state and federal laws, university policies, and accrediting standards.
- The Records and Data team provided quarterly updates for the UWPD Equity Dashboard and on the UWPD website to ensure ongoing transparency to the public.
- As the only triply-accredited law enforcement agency in Wisconsin, UWPD's Accreditation Team works year-round to maintain compliance with more than 500 law enforcement standards, policies, and directives. In 2025, UWPD successfully passed its annual CALEA assessment and achieved re-accreditation through IACLEA, marking the conclusion of a four-year inspection cycle.



## **ACCESS, VIDEO, & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY**

The Access, Video, and Infrastructure Security (AVIS) team is part of the UWPD Professional Standards & Planning Unit and is responsible for managing electronic access, video surveillance, and infrastructure security across the UW–Madison campus. Their critical work, carried out in collaboration with Environmental Health & Safety, DoIT, FP&M, and other campus partners, ensures the safety and security of students, faculty, and staff.

### **2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Completed major upgrades to the campus' electronic access control system, including the replacement of over 5,000 card readers, paving the way for future mobile credential integration, improving security and accessibility.
- Substantially completed the capital project to add electronic access control to UW-Madison buildings that were not yet equipped with access control.
- Continued to conduct security assessments, oversaw the master key policy, and provided guidance on security considerations and features for new construction and major renovations.
- Managed all video systems across campus, assisting in police investigations, HR inquiries, and risk management efforts. In 2025, the team processed more than 470 such video requests.
- Completed the replacement of nearly 2,000 outdated cameras, ensuring campus-wide security improvements while also adding substantial storage to increase data retention. This effort was in close collaboration with DoIT, FP&M, and other campus stakeholders to modernize surveillance technology.
- Successfully installed analytics programming to campus security cameras to detect camera failures or tampering in real time.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Support Services unit is represented by a wide variety of specialized professionals who work together to provide essential services, ensuring UWPD remains operational and highly effective at all times. We are committed to providing high-quality support services to all UWPD units, individual employees, campus community members, and the public as a whole. We strive for constant improvement by providing a high level of support in finance, human resources, wellbeing, and information technology, holding ourselves accountable for innovative best practices, open communication, accessibility, and transparency. We do this work while being good stewards of resources.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES: 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Recruited, hired, and on-boarded 23 new employees and promoted 15 individuals
- Successfully implemented Workday for both UWPD and the UW System, ensuring a smooth transition.
- Served as a subject matter expert for the UW System's ATP, contributing expertise to support the Workday rollout.
- Enhanced recruitment strategies through collaboration with EPIC Recruiting and Field Services, using data-informed approaches to attract qualified candidates.
- Managed 122+ complex employee cases, including FMLA, disability-related requests, and workers' compensation claims, ensuring timely and compliant follow-up.
- Delivered market-informed total compensation adjustments, including base salary increases and enhanced night and weekend differential pay.
- Revamped the department's hiring bonus program to maintain market competitiveness.
- Led a multi-shift effort during open enrollment, supporting employees in making informed benefit selections.

## **FINANCE: 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Led the successful implementation of the UW System Workday software for UWPD, serving as a subject matter expert for the Administrative Transformation Project.
- Collaborated with the Budget Office and UWPD leadership to secure funding for a sustainable campus security camera initiative; collaborated with multiple external vendors and campus partners.
- Trained and provided ongoing support for training requests, travel authorizations, and reimbursement processes.
- Prepared, reviewed, and processed more than 600 purchase orders totaling approximately \$6.5 million.
- Reconciled more than 4,200 transactions to support accurate budget reporting and financial status updates.
- Managed the end-to-end processing of nearly 200 customer invoices representing over \$4 million in sales credits.

## **WELL-BEING: 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Increased employee engagement and satisfaction through expanded wellness program offerings.
- Launched the second annual Mental Health Checks Program, broadening outreach and participation to promote mental health awareness and demonstrate organizational commitment.
- Organized a diverse range of wellbeing events — including physical wellness, financial wellness, and career development—and developed and implemented a comprehensive family engagement program.
- Coordinated a successful Red Cross Blood Drive.
- Enhanced the department's Peer Support programming and training to strengthen internal support resources.
- Delivered family-focused programming that created meaningful opportunities for employee families to engage with and feel connected to the department.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Upgraded internal email communication system to improve reliability, security, and overall communication efficiency across the department.
- Provided support for concerts for the first time in over 30 years, in addition to supporting a wide range of special events, significantly expanding operational responsibilities.
- Upgraded Conference Room A/V systems to support modern meeting, briefing, and training needs.
- Created a fully functional, 24/7 Command Post capable of activation as needed to support emergency operations and critical incidents.
- Assisted with installing foundational infrastructure to support ESINet and Next Generation 911 (NG911), positioning the agency for future emergency communications capabilities.
- Coordinated the installation and upgrade of the fiber optic network to establish a direct, reliable connection with the Wisconsin Department of Justice.
- Implemented a password security client to enhance cybersecurity and protect sensitive systems and data.
- Outfitted and deployed 15+ new squad vehicles with upgraded modems and fully refreshed electronic systems to support field operations.
- Upgraded, implemented, and provided training for new evidence technician cameras, improving evidence collection and documentation standards.
- Conducted strategic planning and a comprehensive review of agency technologies, assessing current capabilities and developing a roadmap for future systems and operational needs.
- Supported, serviced, and maintained 400+ technology devices.



**OUR VISION**

Together, we strive to be a national leader in public safety by using values-based approaches and collaborative strategies involving our entire community to ensure the safety and well-being of UW-Madison. Further, we are dedicated to the growth and support of all our employees, empowering them to succeed, enabling them to develop professionally, and encouraging them to attain wellness.



**OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to provide public safety to the Law-Medison Community. We are committed to providing exceptional service that upholds the law, protects and respects rights, and promotes well-being.

**OUR VALUES**

Our values serve as the foundation for our mission and guide us to... the community... our relationships...

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

MERRY CHRISTMAS YOU FILTHY ANIMAL

MERRY CHRISTMAS YOU FILTHY ANIMAL

TECH SUPPORT

HERE TO DELETE YOUR COOKIES

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

The Special Operations Unit is a group of diverse personnel who work together to provide exceptional training — guided by community expectations, evolving tools and technology — to best equip all UWPD staff to protect the safety, security, wellbeing, and sanctity of all people. We collaborate with community stakeholders to be leaders in coordinating safe special events and securing facilities. We deliver effective and efficient lake rescue and educational water safety services and specialty services to the community with an emphasis on safety, professionalism, customer service, and community building.

### **2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Enhanced efficiency and quality control of special event scheduling, tracking, and finances.
- Supported campus partners with the planning, coordination, and execution of public safety operations for the return (first in 27 years) of concerts to Camp Randall Stadium.
- Staffed and implemented enhanced security measures at Athletic Department facilities.
- Engaged in leadership roles to further enhance safety and security measures during freedom of expression events.
- Carefully evaluated public safety needs and justifications for police vehicle escorts and impacts while constantly implementing best practices, development, and training for motor officers.
- Successfully coordinated the largest ever transition and up-fitting of vehicles in the UWPD fleet.
- Added two additional Tactical Emergency Casualty Care instructors who are essential to further developing lifesaving skills and capabilities during active critical incidents, as well as day-to-day operations.
- Coordinated and tracked 11,732.5 total hours of training for all UWPD employees.
- Recruited, selected, and trained two new Athletic Department Liaison Officers and two new PPT members.



June 18, 2025 - Our officers are always finding ways to perfect their skills – even on the job! Night shift took some time after briefing for some critical DAAT training.



July 24, 2025 - Police Officer Ryan Bridges, a member of the UWPD Motor Unit, demonstrates the features of one of our patrol motorcycles to a participant during Grandparents University.

## COMMUNITY OFFICERS

The UWPD Community Officers play a pivotal role in building and strengthening relationships throughout campus. UWPD has four Community Officers assigned to specific geographic areas – these dedicated positions allow direct engagement with students, staff, and faculty.

Community Officers serve as primary liaisons to building managers and key campus stakeholders, offering personalized service via meetings, safety-oriented trainings, and workgroups. They also play an important role in campus outreach events such as Coffee with a Cop, Shop with a Cop, Be Bright, the International Student Welcome and Information Fair, and Welcome Week.

As part of the MedDrop Program, Community Officers oversaw the disposal of 718 pounds of expired and unwanted medication in 2025, primarily collected at UWPD's MedDrop box.

The Community Officer team facilitates a plethora of safety trainings, including Active Threat Response, CPR, Medical Amnesty, Emergency Preparedness, Know Your Rights, Alcohol Safety, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, which includes site surveys. These trainings not only equip participants with critical knowledge but also provide a valuable opportunity to address other questions and build or maintain stakeholder relationships. Beyond their dedicated community engagement and training efforts, Community Officers contribute to campus safety by assisting patrol services with calls, maintaining staffing levels, and engaging in long-term, partner-based problem-solving. Their commitment to proactive outreach and operational readiness highlights UWPD's dedication to fostering a safe and connected campus environment.

## LAKE RESCUE & SAFETY

In 2025, the UWPD Lake Rescue & Safety (LRAS) Unit completed its 116th season of service on Lake Mendota. Over the course of the season, the unit conducted 277 patrols and responded to 243 calls for service, aiding 413 people in water-related incidents. Additionally, LRAS conducted more than 750 training hours, including 119 on-the-water training exercises to prepare for a multitude of possible situations on Lake Mendota.

LRAS has spent 2025 preparing to enhance its service to the public by becoming an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) service. With EMR skills as part of the unit, LRAS will be able to provide more care to injured people on Lake Mendota. This will also strengthen the unit's relationship with the Madison Fire Department, which is providing medical oversight for the service.

LRAS supported the safety of the Madison Ironman swim on Lake Monona by having a rescue boat available to assist participating swimmers. The unit also provided water safety information to the public for Safety Saturday and Waunakee Night Out.



UWPD  
**LAKE RESCUE & SAFETY**



THE ONLY  
KING  
HERE IS  
WISCONSIN



UWPD

## UWPD MOUNTED UNIT

Our mounted unit had a busy year with many new experiences. Our riders and horses made meaningful contacts with both our campus and downtown communities. This year, our unit spent extensive time attending community events throughout campus and the Dane County area. Along with playing a key role in providing high-visibility patrol and crowd management at many large-scale events throughout the year. Including the return of concerts at Camp Randall with Morgan Wallen and Coldplay. Our riders and horses focused on ongoing training and preparedness. Our Mounted Unit also attended multiple trainings with our partners at the Milwaukee Mounted Unit and Madison Mounted Unit.

The UWPD Mounted Unit also spent time supporting our partners at the Madison Police Department. UWPD officers and riders assisted the Madison Mounted Unit with patrols of the downtown area on Friday and Saturday nights as part of MPD's Department's Downtown Safety Initiative (DSI). Most notably, horses and their riders assisted with crowd management in problem areas of downtown, including bars, nightclubs, and high-traffic areas.

The Mounted Unit was prominently featured at several high-profile events throughout the year, including:

- UW-Madison 175th Anniversary Celebration
- UWPD Open House
- UW-Madison Badger Football Games
- Hero Weekend (Watertown, WI)
- Amigos en Azul Car Seat Clinic (Fitchburg, WI)
- Community Night Out (Fitchburg, WI)
- Oregon National Night Out (Oregon, WI)
- Community Outreach Rides with the MPD Mounted Unit



## UWPD K9 UNIT

The UWPD K9 Unit has four specialized K9 teams. Two Explosive Ordinance Detection (EOD) and tracking teams, and two Therapy Dog teams.

### Explosive Ordinance Detection (EOD) & Tracking Teams

Our EOD teams are: K9 Ritter, partnered with Officer Zurbuchen, and K9 Mavi, partnered with Officer Austin. Our EOD K9 teams respond to calls both on and off campus, where a K9 can be useful. Our teams also provide EOD coverage at Badger Football games, Kohl Center events, concerts, large community events, and more. Our EOD K9 teams were deployed 161 times this year.

### Therapy Dog Teams

Our Therapy Dog teams are: K9 Dusty, partnered with Officer Erwin, and K9 Hoagie, partnered with Officer Bayley. Our Therapy Dog teams are used to provide comfort to individuals in times of crisis or stress. Our teams are used throughout the campus community, in our broader community, and also internally to assist our employees in coping and navigating stressful and traumatic cases. The Therapy K9 teams had a total of 225 events and deployments, which resulted in contacts and positive engagement with more than 8,138 people.





July 23, 2025 - Police Officer Derek Austin shows a group from Eagles Wing Daycare how his K9 partner, Mavi, does her important work. Kids also learned about our motor and mounted units, and how to call 911.

## REMEMBERING K9 KOBALT

Retired K9 Kobalt passed on Monday, August 18, 2025, surrounded by his family.

K9 Kobalt, a German Shepherd, began his career with the UW–Madison Police Department in 2018 when he partnered with former Sgt. Nicki Zautner. Born and trained in Holland, Kobalt came to the United States when he was just one, and quickly became an integral part of our K9 Unit.

Throughout his years of service, Kobalt was certified in narcotics detection, evidence recovery, and human tracking. He assisted officers from across Dane County and the state, making countless contributions to public safety. Whether he was helping recover critical evidence or locating individuals in need, Kobalt's dedication and drive were unmatched.

Kobalt officially retired in December 2024 and enjoyed his retirement with the Zautner family. Off duty, Kobalt was known for his playful, loyal personality.

We are grateful for Kobalt's years of service to UWPD and the community. Rest easy, Kobalt – thank you for your service.





## UWPD DRONE UNIT

Established in late 2023, the UW–Madison Police Department (UWPD) Drone Team has quickly become an invaluable asset to the department.

In 2025, the UWPD Drone Team expanded, and we now have 18 Part 107-certified operators. This means our operators have completed all requirements to become FAA-licensed remote pilots, authorizing them to operate small unmanned aircraft systems in the United States.

The UWPD Drone Team provided aerial support for Badger Football games, Camp Randall concerts, commencement, and other large-scale events. The team was also used for many search, rescue, and scene safety missions in 2025.

Throughout the year, the team logged more than 237 training flights, totaling more than 41 hours of training time. The team was also deployed on 284 flights, totaling more than 112 hours of flight time.





October 18, 2025 - Jeff Willan, an IT Specialist as well as a member of the UWPD Drone Team, assists a drone pilot during an equipment check prior to the Wisconsin vs. Ohio State football game at Camp Randall.

## SPECIAL EVENTS RECAP

The UW–Madison community experienced an extraordinary year of events in 2025, marked by historic milestones, major athletic competitions, high-profile speakers, and significant operational challenges. Among the most notable achievements was the return of concerts to Camp Randall Stadium after more than 27 years – a landmark accomplishment that showcased the strength of UWPD’s partnership with Wisconsin Athletics and our ability to deliver safe, well-managed experiences for tens of thousands of attendees.

### Spring Highlights

- UW Band Concerts at the Kohl Center
- Upper Deck Golf at Camp Randall
- Dozens of collegiate basketball and hockey games, plus WIAA basketball and wrestling state championships
- Commencement
- Hosted LOVB professional volleyball league

### Campus Climate and Protest Activity

Protest activity continued throughout the year, driven by global and national issues. These events required significant resources and collaboration across campus partners to ensure safety and uphold free expression. In addition, UW–Madison hosted several controversial and high-profile speakers and Regents Meetings, further underscoring the importance of coordinated security planning.



## Historic Concerts at Camp Randall

The summer season featured back-to-back concerts by Morgan Wallen and a sold-out performance by Coldplay, drawing massive crowds and national attention. Successfully hosting these events required extensive planning, coordination, and execution by UWPD and Athletics, along with support from numerous campus and external partners. These concerts demonstrated our capability to manage large-scale entertainment events while maintaining the highest standards of safety and security.

## Fall Events

The fall season kicked off with The W Project: Bucky's 5th Quarter, welcoming new Badgers to Camp Randall with traditions, music, and a drone show. Football season brought new Big Ten opponents and the successful rollout of alcohol hawkers, a change that UWPD worked closely with Athletics to implement thoughtfully and safely. Successfully planned for and managed two football post-game field rush celebrations.

### Other major fall events included:

- Convocation
- WIAA Football Championship
- NCAA Cross-Country Championships at University Ridge
- Ironman Wisconsin, featuring a run course through campus
- WIAA Football Championships
- Men's and Women's Basketball and Hockey seasons
- Badger Volleyball at the Field House
- Kohl Center-Mt Joy & Goose Concert



## WELLNESS INITIATIVES

The UWPD Wellness Program is a coordinated suite of initiatives and activities designed to promote the overall health and well-being of UWPD employees. The program supports both mental and physical wellness through a diverse range of offerings, including a Mentorship Program, Physical Therapy Program, Peer Support Program, Fitness Program, Massage Therapy Program, Family Engagement Program, and Run Club. Additional responsibilities include managing the department's Calm App account, supporting annual mental health check programming, overseeing assignments for the Gender-Inclusive Locker Rooms and meditation nook, assisting with annual functional fitness testing, and delivering departmental training for the UWPD Mini-Academy and In-Service.

## 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched the second annual Mental Health Checks Program, expanding outreach and engagement.
- Drove employee well-being by introducing a meditation nook.
- Advanced family engagement by hosting the UWPD Family Movie Event on February 2nd.
- Presented at the March 2025 Officer Safety & Wellness Conference, highlighting UWPD's first family-focused program and initiatives designed to increase family engagement within the department.
- Increased awareness of available resources by presenting to LRAS temporary employees on March 8th about wellness programming accessible during their employment with UWPD.
- Successfully launched the Peer Support Employee Satisfaction Survey to gauge department feedback.
- Fostered family connection and workplace engagement by hosting Take Your Child to Work Day.
- Co-hosted Grandparents University on July 24th.
- Developed and launched the UWPD Financial Wellness Training Series in partnership with the UW-Extension.

- Successfully organized the UWPD Blood Drive, securing 17 donors and collecting 20 units of blood to support community health.
- Supported employee growth by hosting Career Development Lunch & Learn sessions on June 25th and July 16th.
- Promoted active engagement and wellness by hosting the UWPD Active Summer: Dairy Cattle Center Tour.
- Exemplary employee engagement in the Massage Therapy Program, with 112 employees participating
- Efficiently managed the Onward Physical Therapy Program that completed 282 visits with 83% utilization
- Active engagement with the Calm App, with 40 active users totaling 103 sessions and completing 1,233 minutes dedicated to mindfulness.
- Enhanced staff preparedness by providing mental health training during Security In-Service sessions.
- Strengthened financial well-being through a continued partnership with Associated Bank, hosting financial wellness events.
- Peer Support Partners hosted a Peer Support Shoe Demo outreach event on August 20th.
- Successfully launched the 2025 Wellness Survey on September 15th, generating 63 employee responses to inform wellness initiatives.
- Strengthened peer support capabilities by completing Advanced Peer Support Training at Dane County Emergency Management.





Oct. 14, 2025 - Police Officer Derek Austin was named First Responder of the Year for Assembly District 77. He was recognized alongside first responders from across the state as part of First Responder Appreciation Day.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

### Special Olympics Wisconsin

UWPD proudly takes part in the statewide collaboration between Special Olympics Wisconsin and law enforcement, including participation in flagship events like “Cop on a Rooftop” (May) in which officers climbed to the roof of Dunkin Donuts on S Park Street and helped raise funds for Special Olympics athletes. In June, UWPD led the Madison portion of the Torch Run, which raises money and awareness for Special Olympics Wisconsin’s mission.

### Safety Saturday

UWPD participated in Safety Saturday, an event that educates parents, children, and the public on how to make safe decisions, prevent injuries, and encourage the use of safety devices such as seat belts, bike helmets, and smoke alarms. The UWPD motor unit, community officers, dispatch team, Lake Rescue & Safety, and therapy K-9s were all in attendance at this busy event on the Capitol Square.



## Operation Give Hope

The anti-human trafficking resource fair “Operation Give Hope” brought together public safety organizations and community resources to support families on Madison’s east side. UWPD members purchased items to donate at this resource fair, and then staffed the event alongside Project Respect, the Dane County Sheriff’s Department, the Madison Police, and numerous other community stakeholders.

## Shop With a Cop

2025 marked the 25th consecutive year that Dane County law enforcement hosted children for “Shop with a Cop,” and UWPD hosted numerous children from the Eagle Heights neighborhood. Officers were paired with a child and enjoyed a day of shopping at Target, followed by gift wrapping and lunch at an area VFW.





June 5, 2025 - Police Officer AP Prescott, a member of the UWPD Motor Unit, was honored to escort a group of runners to UW-Whitewater as part of the Special Olympics Wisconsin Law Enforcement Torch Run.



## 2025 AWARDS CEREMONY

On April 2, 2025, members of the UW-Madison Police Department, the UW–Madison campus, and the general public were presented with awards for their extraordinary service to the UW-Madison community. These awards are for efforts and/or actions in 2024 with an emphasis on public safety. The ceremony was UWPD’s 34th annual event.

### Commendation for Valor

PO Derek Austin

### Meritorious Service Commendation

Lt. Beth Lopez

Former Sgt. Nicole Zautner

PO Justin Zurbuchen

### Community Service Award

PO Devan Arbay

Danielle Bridges

Security Manager Mike Carpenter

Lt. Jeff Ellis

Sgt. Meg Hamilton

Marc Loviccott

LEDM LeAnn Krieg

Cathryn Mosher

LED Kat Ryan

Capt. Mark Silbernagel

Brett Van Ess

LEDS Dawn Veirs

### Problem Solving Award

SS Mark Barnaba

Cindy Blankenship

LED Kim Brunner

LED Kyleah Carruthers

LED Charles Cederquist

Alec Dunkel

SO Julian Flores

LED Cameron Handel

PO Adrian Vera

### Professional Service Award

Patrick Bucci (2)

Danielle Bridges

Robert Maier

Mandi Meier

Brock Prough

Andrew Monk

Megan Schaefer

Andy Schwartz

SO Mackenzie Truitt

Jeff Willan

### Lifesaving Award

PO Derek Austin

Former Sgt. Nicole Zautner

### Chiefs Awards

Kaitlyn Abbott

Yuhao “Perry” Chen

Elizabeth Curran

Donald Driscoll

Tara Genske

James Harrod

Dr. Jake Hurlbutt

Dr. Matt Koester

Leon Nel

Todd Nelson

Mark O’Neill

Suzanne Schlecht

Jim Thompson

### Excellent Service Commendation

PO Devan Arbay (4)	PO Derek Johnson
PO Derek Austin & K9 Mavi	PO Pierce Kaufman
SS Mark Barnaba	PO Adam Koss (3)
PO Krista Bayley	PO Jenson Lee
Tracey Berman	LED Chris Linssen (2)
Jessie Bowden	Petra Matuszka
Danielle Bridges (2)	PO Audrey Maya
PO Ryan Bridges	Lt. John McCaughtry
PO Dani Broesch	Andrew Monk
LED Kim Brunner (2)	Cathryn Mosher
PO David Brnusak (3)	Sgt. Vinson Mulvey
Amanda Buckley	PO Ryan Pharo
Sgt. Dan Burgoni	Sgt. Adam Prescott
LED Kyleah Carruthers (2)	Former SO Kirk Robinson
LED Charles Cederquist	LED Kat Ryan
PO Ryan Conybear & Mounted Police Horse Vetter	Megan Schaefer
PO Connor Cunningham	Sgt. Ian Shaw (2)
PO Barrett Erwin	Det. Matt Shaw (2)
PO Brennan Ferree (2)	PO Brett Slaney
Sgt. Meg Hamilton (2)	LED Jason Smith
Marie Gould	Det. Kyle Van Haren
PO Eric Grudzinski	LEDS Dawn Veirs
Ian Hundt	Capt. Jason Whitney
Lt. Ryan Jesberger	PO Justin Zurbuchen & K9 Ritter

### Employee of the Year Awards

*Dispatcher of the Year*  
LED Kyleah Carruthers

*Police Officer of the Year*  
PO Connor Cunningham

*Professional Staff Employee of the Year*  
Mandi Meier

*Security Officer of the Year*  
Sup. Mark Barnaba

## 2025 PERSONNEL

### NEW HIRES

Dalton Andersen  
Justin Carter  
Peter Congalosi  
Jeffrey Czarny  
Samuel Fremgen  
Andrea Grant  
Jordan Harrison

Shane Hubbard  
Jeremy Larson  
Haonan Lyu  
Emily Malarski  
Daniel Mincemoyer  
Agon Murseli  
Evan Perez

Cody Pharo  
Logan Piper  
Brock Prough  
Justin Schilling  
Scout Umnus

### PROMOTIONS

Danielle Bridges  
Patrick Bucci  
Mickey Kienest  
Haden Kilcoyne  
Adam Koss

Brent Plisch  
Tim Slater  
Adrian Vera  
Jason Whitney

### RETIREMENTS

Cindy Blankenship  
Adam Boardman  
Peter Grimyser

Kirk Robinson  
Carole Roys





Dec. 18, 2025 - Through the month of December, Field Services staff held a friendly food drive and monetary donation competition— and third shift team took top honors! Staff collected more than 650 food items and raised \$930, all of which were split and donated to the River Food Pantry and the UW Open Seat Food Pantry.

## CITATION STATISTICS

OFFENSE	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Traffic Related	999	719	894	1050	969
Underage Alcohol	331	342	466	239	360
Driving While Intoxicated	78	97	152	181	105
<b>Stadium Violations</b>					
Body Passing	6	1	0	0	0
Possession of Alcohol	2	6	15	16	11
Throwing Objects	1	0	3	8	10
<b>UW Administrative Codes</b>					
Assaultive Behavior	2	3	0	3	7
Disorderly Conduct	24	29	25	27	46
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	20	19	20	13	5
Possession of Marijuana	13	20	15	8	9
Theft	18	19	24	22	33
Trespass	139	72	67	57	94
Vandalism	23	12	15	14	13

Please see the 2025 [Annual Security Report & Annual Fire Safety Report](#) for additional crime statistics, statistics for on-campus residential housing fires, campus safety and disciplinary policies, alcohol and drug policies, and policies that specifically address prevention of and response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

DOG  
THERAPY SESSIONS  
FREE



THE THERAPY DOG  
IS IN





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### PRODUCED BY

UWPD Chief's Office  
Marc Lovicott, UWPD Exec. Director of Communications  
UWPD Officers and Staff

### PHOTOGRAPHY

UWPD Officers and Staff  
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Green Bay Packers



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