



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Lakewood-Busti Police Department

Email: police@lakewoodny.com

Website: lakewoodny.gov

Tel: 716-763-9563
20 W. Summit Ave
Lakewood NY, 14750



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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF BENTLEY

The year of 2025 brought new and unforeseen challenges to the Lakewood-Busti Police Department. The year started off with a change in leadership. I would like to thank retired Chief Christopher DePonceau and his leadership, for setting the groundwork for what would become a very successful 2025. I took over the responsibilities of Chief of Police in April of this year. The department was in need of additional full time officers, updates to equipment and a start towards modernization.

This year the department welcomed 3 new full time officers. Officers Charlie Simons, Jacob Swan, and Aleksander Peck. We also welcomed a new part time officer in Brad Gunnell. Officer Matthew Lundsten was promoted to Sergeant in July of this year. Officer Swan also was promoted to the position of K9 Handler with K9 Kor. Investigator Currie was promoted to the title of Detective. Sergeant Casey Casselman and Chief Christopher DePonceau both retired this year after 20 years of service to our community.

We have had major upgrades to our technological infrastructure within the department. Utilizing the \$26,000 awarded us through the District Attorney Discovery Grant, we have been able to upgrade multiple areas. First is the surveillance cameras inside and outside of the department. Second we have upgraded the monitoring system associated with these cameras and the data storage. Lastly, we have begun the process of securing the department's entrances with a new keyless fob system. In 2026 we have secured another District Attorney Discovery Grant in the amount of \$31,000. This will help us continue the positive progress we have made in 2025.

Based on the preliminary incident-based reporting data, Part A and B Offenses have increased 5% from 2024 to 2025. Whereas our IBR Part A and B Arrests have increased 10.6% from 2024 to 2025. These percentages are a positive correlation as it shows our crime numbers are not steadily increasing. However we are making more arrests on the offenses we are handling.

Chief Matthew Bentley

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lakewood–Busti Police Department’s mission is to protect life and property, preserve public order, and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors through professional, community-oriented policing and partnerships.



2025 PERSONNEL CHANGES

RETIREMENTS



Chief Christopher DePonceau



Sgt. Casey Casselman

PROMOTIONS

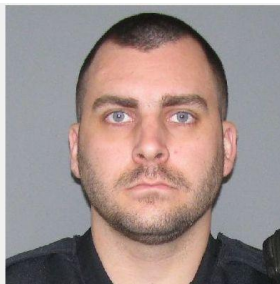


Sgt. Matthew Lundsten



Det. Michael Currie

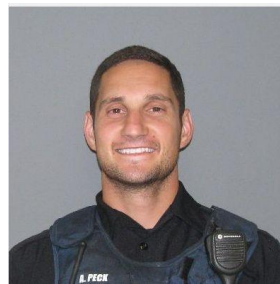
NEW HIRES



PO Bradley Gunnell



PO Charlie Simons



PO Aleksander Peck



PO/K9 Jacob Swan

The following pages contain graphical representations and trend analyses corresponding to the categories outlined below.

Incident Data (NIBRS)

- Incidents by Year 2021-2025
- Incidents by Month 2025

Calls for Service

- Top Ten Calls for Service
- Busiest Time of Day and Day of Week for Calls for Service

Arrest Data (IBR/NIBRS)

- Arrests by Month
- Top Five Arrest Offense Categories
- IBR Arrests by Month
- IBR Arrests by Year

Offense Data (IBR/NIBRS)

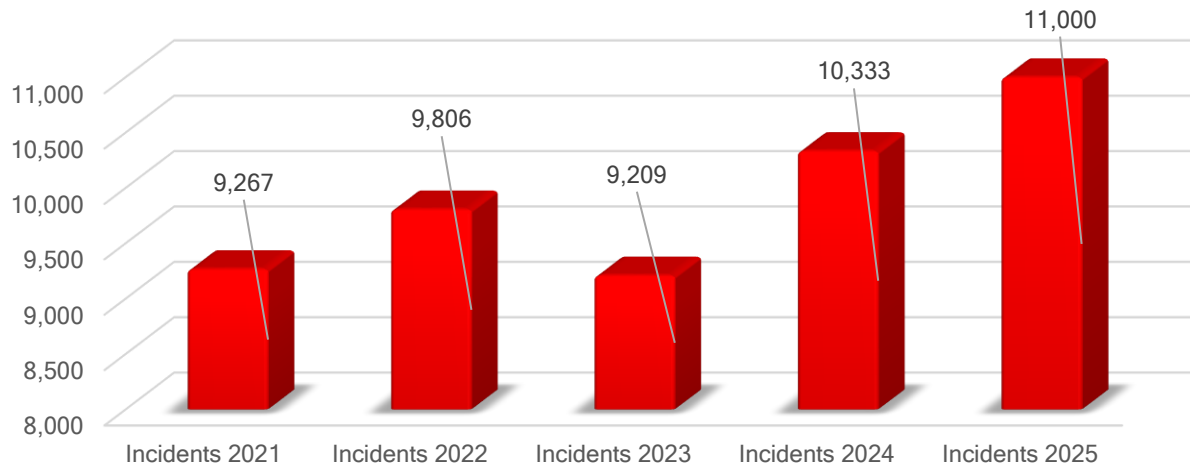
- IBR Offenses by Month
- IBR Offenses by Year

Traffic Enforcement Activity

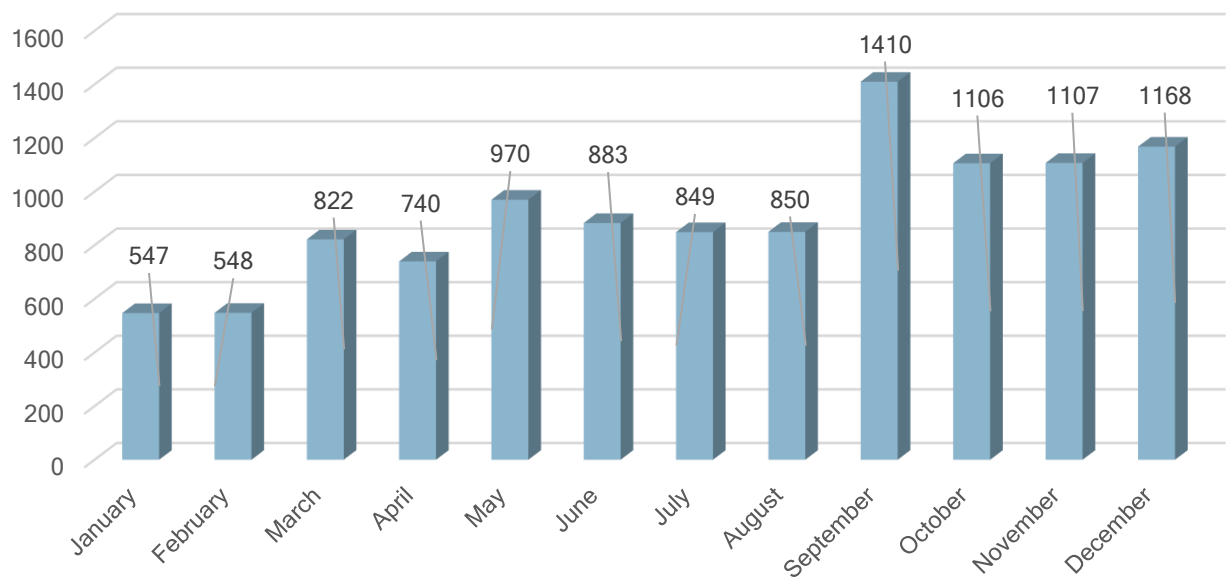
- Vehicle Traffic Citations and Warning Statistics
- Top Five Tickets Issued in 2025

Graphs and trend analyses for each category are provided on the following pages.

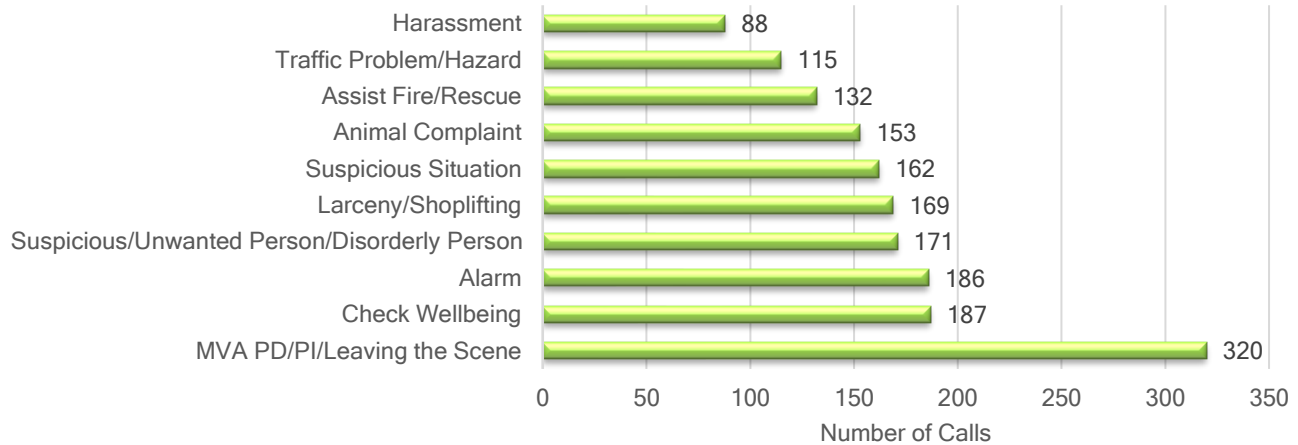
COMPARISON OF INCIDENTS PER YEAR



INCIDENTS BY MONTH 2025



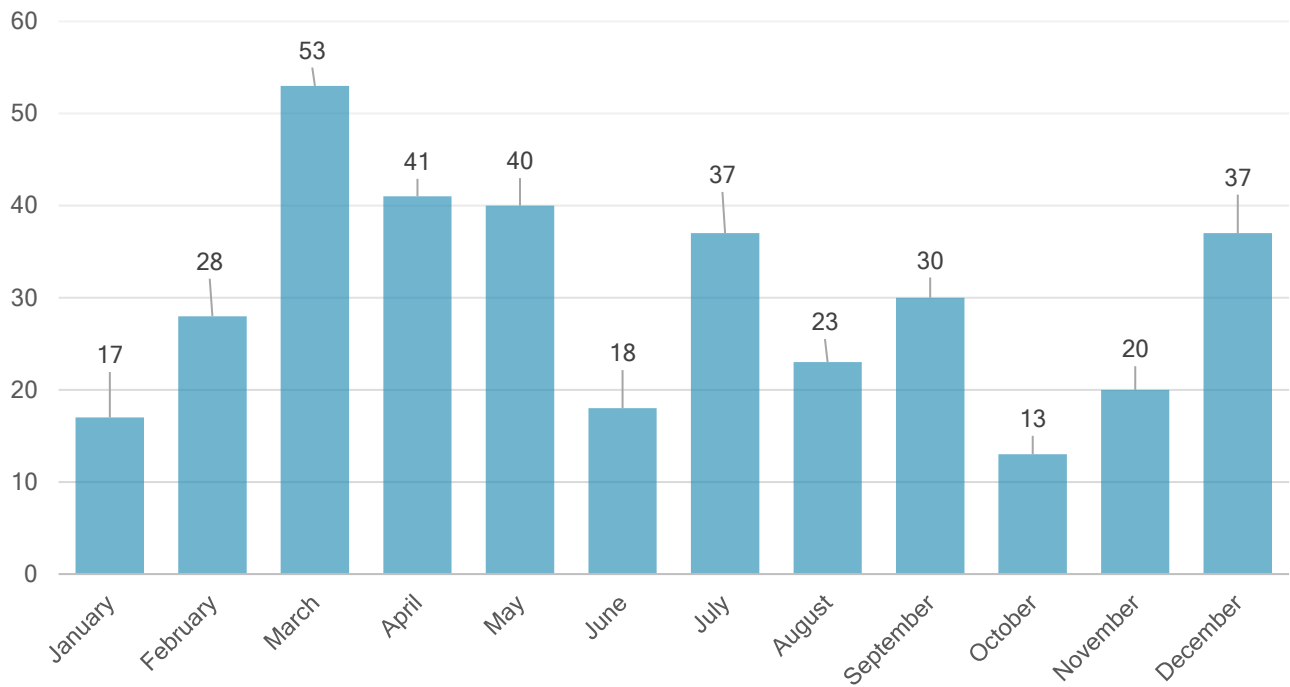
TOP 10 CALLS FOR SERVICE FROM THE COMMUNITY



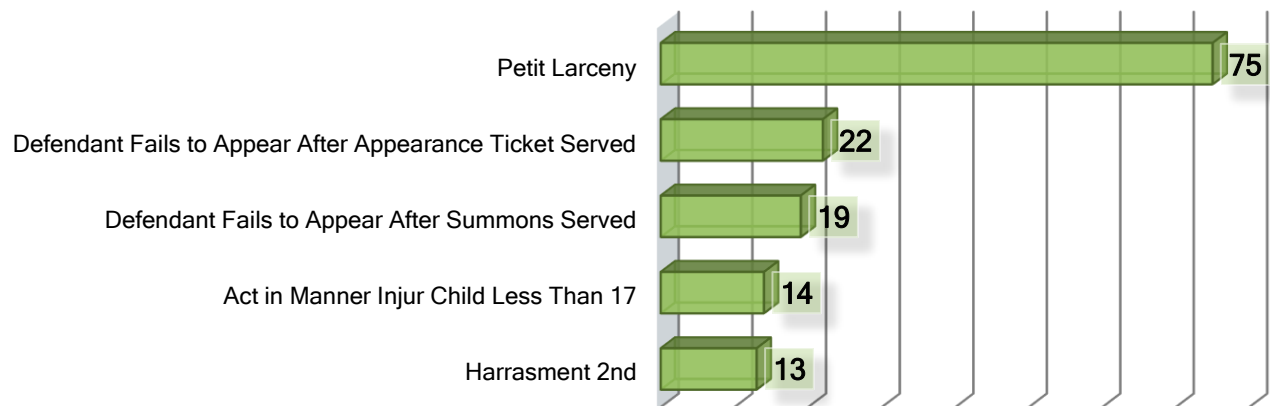
BUSIEST TIME OF DAY/DAY OF WEEK FOR CALLS FOR SERVICE

Hours of Day	Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays	Total Calls
0	90	84	70	83	79	90	69	565
1	91	80	73	70	71	100	74	559
2	74	77	54	77	63	64	75	484
3	65	74	60	75	46	43	75	438
4	25	47	36	32	48	26	52	266
5	16	14	22	14	9	16	8	99
6	29	27	45	53	46	28	32	260
7	122	61	39	43	27	23	13	328
8	177	80	52	89	76	74	52	600
9	113	70	60	106	108	111	85	653
10	67	84	74	107	120	90	121	663
11	88	88	70	91	109	103	85	634
12	61	71	54	88	78	68	64	484
13	59	56	46	83	91	69	48	452
14	54	89	64	103	98	101	44	553
15	46	101	64	101	103	86	58	559
16	63	62	50	95	90	83	64	507
17	52	46	40	42	43	30	64	317
18	61	54	57	43	45	30	41	331
19	69	56	46	60	50	71	57	409
20	66	47	65	69	63	72	69	451
21	32	62	81	73	104	60	52	464
22	48	73	57	71	56	80	36	421
23	63	103	70	85	64	62	56	503
Totals:	1631	1606	1349	1753	1687	1580	1394	11000

ARRESTS BY MONTH IN 2025

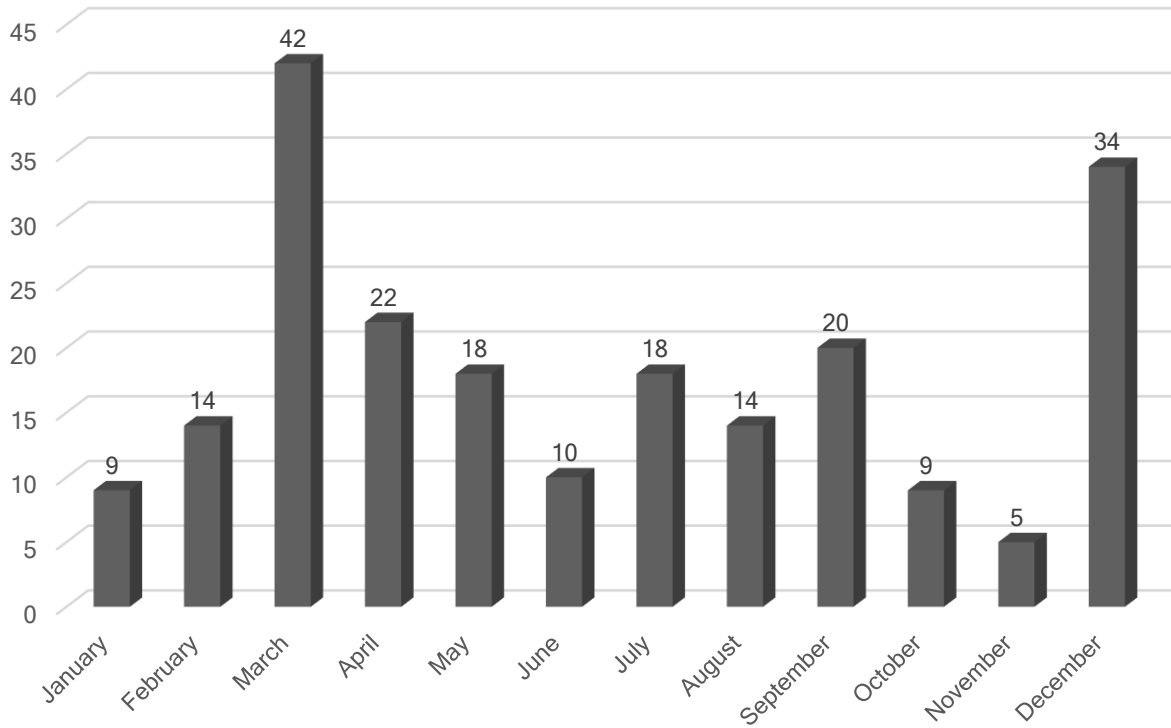


TOP 5 ARRESTS BY TYPE 2025

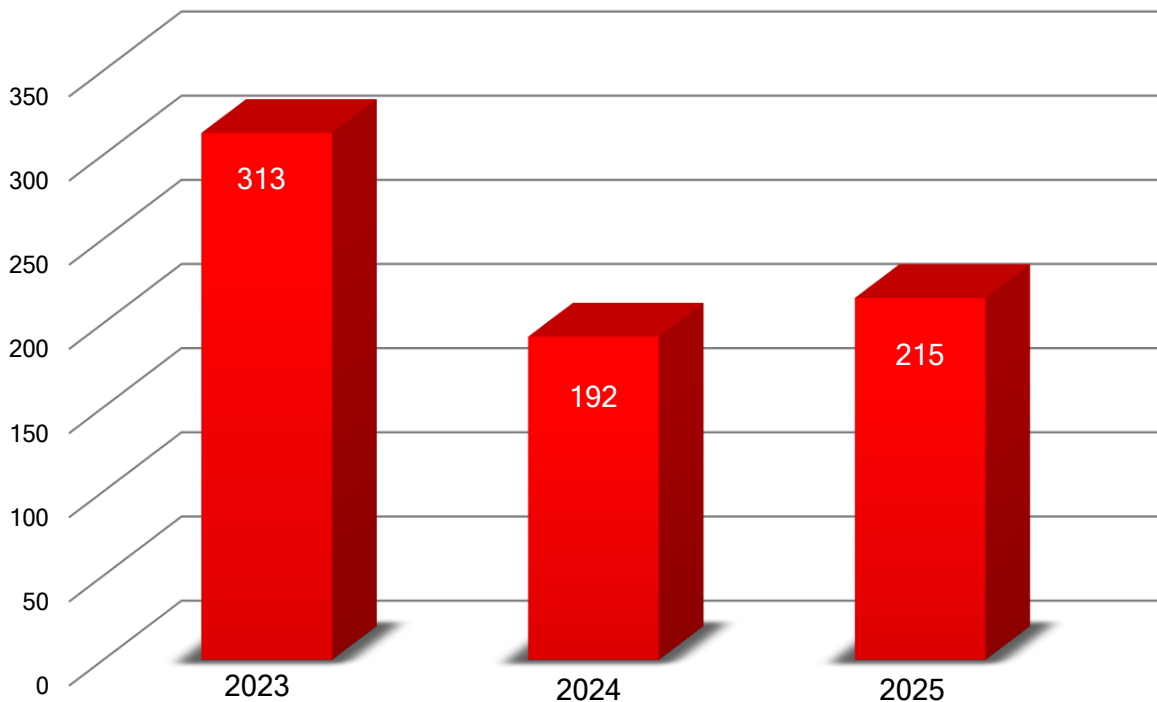


INCIDENT BASED REPORTING GROUP A AND B OFFENSES IN 2025

IBR ARRESTS BY MONTH 2025

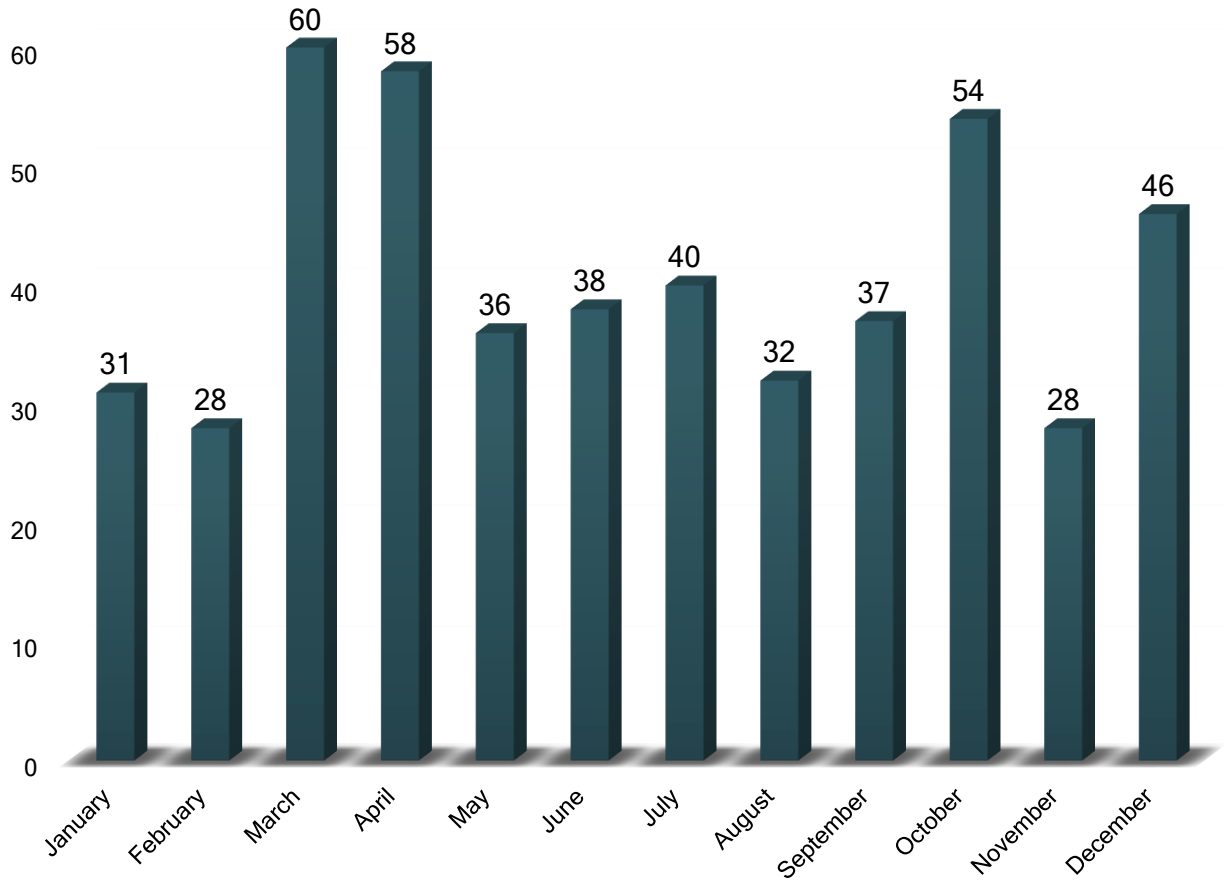


COMPARISON OF IBR ARRESTS PER YEAR

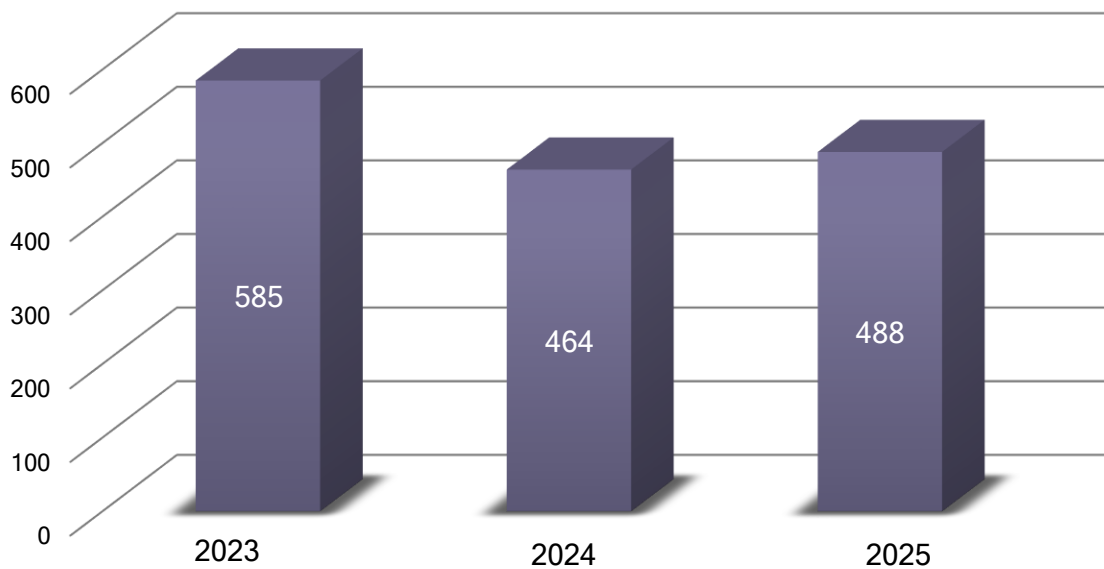


INCIDENT BASED REPORTING ARRESTS IN 2025

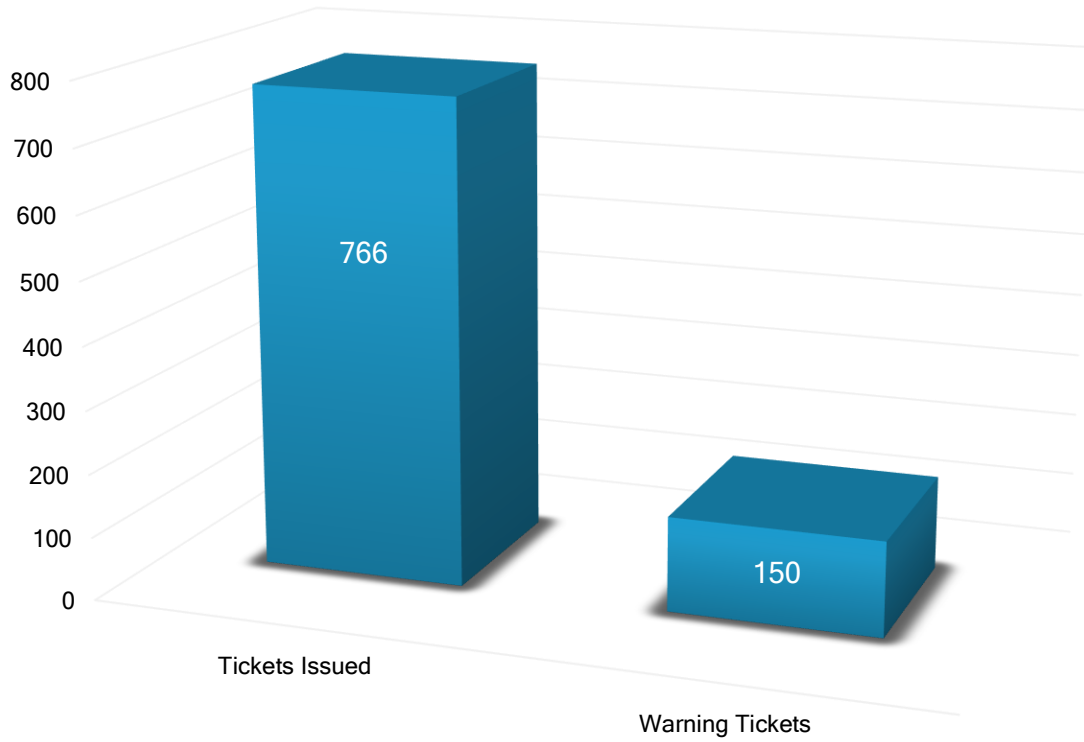
IBR OFFENSES BY MONTH 2025



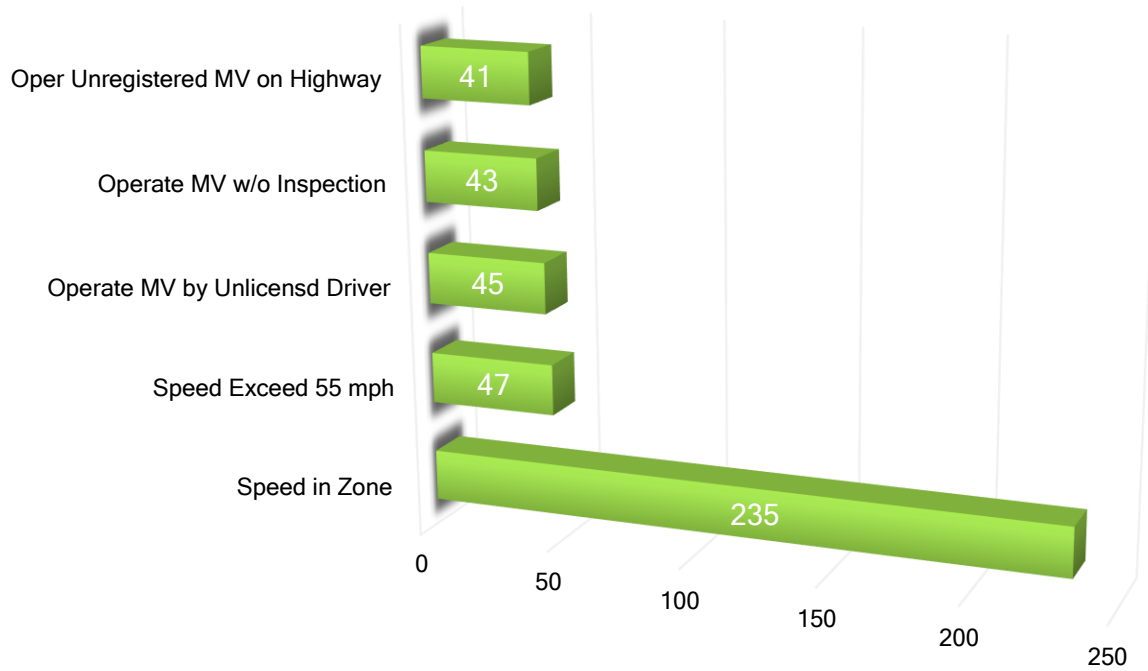
IBR OFFENSES PER YEAR



VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC TICKETS AND WARNINGS

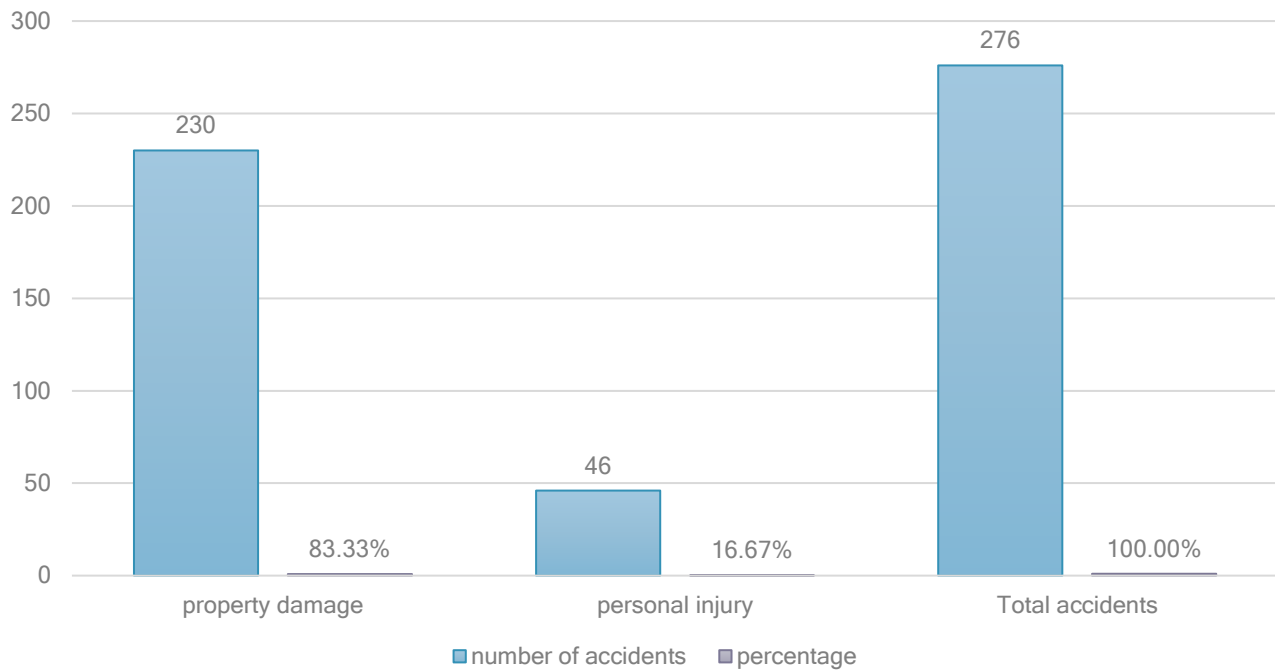


TOP FIVE TICKETS ISSUED IN 2025



Accident Summary - 2025

Total Number of Accidents



The data above indicates that the majority of accidents reported in 2025 resulted in property damage only, accounting for 83.33% of all incidents. Accidents involving personal injury represented 16.67% of the total. This distribution highlights that while most incidents did not result in injury, a smaller portion involved personal harm and will remain a focus of ongoing safety and prevention efforts.



PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is responsible for providing direct police services to the public. The members of the Patrol Division are committed to our citizens through the:

- Protection of life and property,
- Protection of the constitutional guarantees of all people,
- Reduction of opportunities for the commission of crime,
- Resolution to conflict,
- Identification of criminal offenders and criminal activity,
- Apprehension of offenders, and
- Coordination of the efforts of Lakewood-Busti Police Department with other police agencies.

Sergeant William Cummings and Sergeant Matthew Lundsten oversee and supervise the 2 platoons that make up the Patrol Division. We have 9 full time and 6 part time sworn police officers. These officers represent the front line of the department and in most circumstances have the initial contact with the community. Members of the Patrol Division continue to stay vigilant and have a direct relationship with community members to build trust, which assists in the reporting and investigative efforts of these officers.

These officers are responsible for proactive patrols, responding to calls for service, initial and follow up investigations, traffic and parking enforcement, and community relations.

The K9 officer, Jacob Swan, along with his partner K9 Kor, are a part of the Patrol Division. They have just started their journey together in July of this year. Both Swan and Kor will be attending New York State Canine Certification School later in the year. K9 Kor is currently trained in explosives detection. After attendance at this training he will be additionally qualified in tracking and locating people.

GRANTS:

Police Traffic Safety: 129 Tickets

High Visibility Engagement Campaign: 37 Tickets

CUMMINS ENGINE GRANT: \$2,000 towards K9 fund

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The Investigative Division is made up of Detective Michael Currie and Officer/Evidence Technician Daniel Hafner. Detective Currie is responsible for coordinating and leading criminal investigations within the department.

MAJOR CASES

24-9870 - Grand Larceny 2nd at 277 E. Fairmount Ave. Tim Hortons, Lakewood

- A Manager from the store, stole \$116,439.12. Indicted in December of 2025

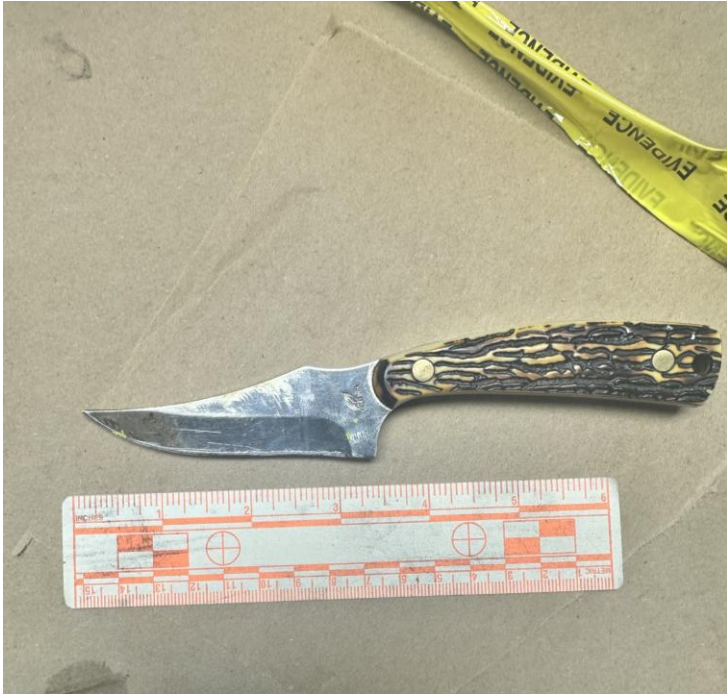
25-606 - Jeffery Hamilton Case, Multiple locations in Lakewood

- This was the case where the suspect, Jeffery Hamilton, spray-painted the Town Court doors, the Village DPW building, multiple cars in the Village parking lot, and a LBPD police car. Through surveillance footage, a suspect was developed. In May of '25, a search warrant was obtained and Hamilton's vehicle was seized from his property in Lakewood. A vehicle data extraction was done on Hamilton's vehicle at LBPD. The data showed that Hamilton's cell phone was linked to his vehicle at the time of damages done. The vehicles' track record shows Hamilton driving to the damaged locations at the time he is on surveillance video. The data also shows that Hamilton's Bluetooth also hit on the LBPD evidence room and DPW Wi-Fi. LBPD took the case to Grand Jury and a County Court Warrant was issued for Hamilton. Hamilton was later arrested for all the damages and will be prosecuted in Chautauqua County Court.



25-1546 - Stabbing on E. Fairmount Ave., Lakewood

- Domestic related incident. Brian Lowers arrested for Assault 2nd.



25-1726 - Stolen and washed check arrest at M&T Bank, Lakewood

- Investigation discovered check was part of large mail theft in Buffalo area. Assisted Amherst Police Department.

25-1898 - Menacing / Search Warrant at 1422 Forest Ave. Ext., Busti

- Suspect brought victim to storage shed and menaced her with hand gun. Search warrant was obtained and executed. Firearm was located.



25-2603 - Burglary at 1117 Forest Ave., Busti

- Burglars caught in process of a burglary. Investigation/interrogation located other suspects



25-3805 - High dollar Criminal Mischief at 154 Chautauqua Ave, Lakewood

- Juvenile suspect was identified through investigation into criminal mischief with multiple cars damaged with a hammer. Estimates of damages was between \$15,000-20,000.

25-5296 - Stolen and washed check arrest at M&T Bank, Lakewood

- Investigation follow up in Buffalo area with more checks stolen. Indictment on suspect from Rochester NY. Arrest on Newquan Williams.

25-5358 - Rape - 318 E. Fairmount Ave., Lakewood

- Rape case involving juvenile. Warrant obtained after investigation and Grand Jury Indictment.

25-7071 - Assault - 288 Southland Ave., Lakewood

- Large fight and assault investigation. Lead to arrest of Logan Swanson

25-9151 - Sports cards theft at 318 E. Fairmount Ave.

- Investigation ongoing into complaint of suspect stealing \$15,000 worth of sports cards

TEACHING AND FORENSIC INVESTIGATION TEAM INVOLVEMENT:

Crime scene week at the JCC Police Academy (Feb/March '25)

Crime scene specialist course for police officers (Oct. '25)

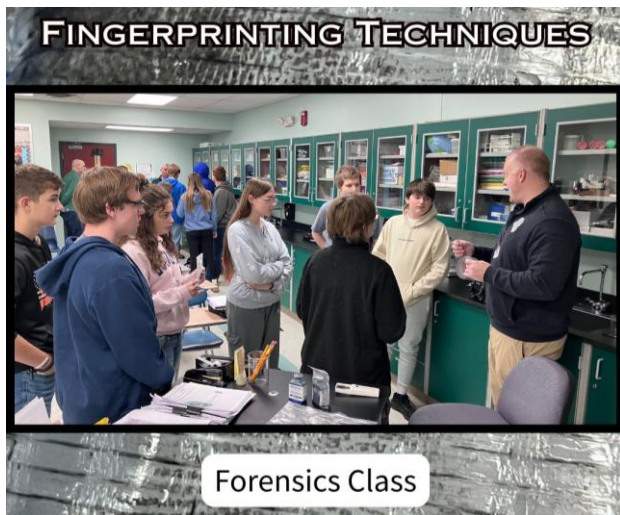
Fingerprints and DNA instruction to Chautauqua Lake Central Schools Forensic class on two occasions

Instructed multiple topics on several dates to the BOCES Explorers program. Topics included DNA, Fingerprints, and Footwear/tire impressions

Crime scene presentation to Lakewood Fire Department (Nov. '25)

Bank alarm procedures to Community Bank, Lakewood branch (Dec. '25)

Taught multiple topics in bi-monthly Forensic Investigation Team trainings. In charge of setting up and teaching practical exercises to help instruct collection/processing of evidence to other police officers.



FORENSIC INVESTIGATION TEAM INVOLVEMENT:

Stabbing at 6221 Rt. 60, Charlotte

Officer involved shooting at 2900 Mina French Creek Rd., Sherman

Homicide/Fire investigation 7984 McKinley Rd. Westfield

Burglary at 2980 Armenian Rd., Sherman

Homicide at 314 W. 4th St., Jamestown

Two cases (one, a LBPD case) of using advanced training in Vehicle Data Extraction.



ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Records Management is staffed by 1 full time civilian employee, who is responsible for the repository of all department arrests records reports, case history reports, vehicle and traffic tickets and auto accident reports; and the release of these records to the public. Their other responsibilities include answering non-emergency phone calls, as well as waiting on people who enter the lobby of the department. Their complaints are entered into the computer, and assigned to police officers.

Officer/Evidence Technician Daniel Hafner also covers the departments' information and technology duties. He handles the computer programming services; entering, reviewing and monitoring the quality of information in the departments' computer database; and coordinating officer automation services. He also provides technical assistance and instruction to department employees in the operation of computer and technical systems; acts as liaison with the Village and county data processing personnel; establishes, coordinates, and maintains schedules and inventories for the utilization of equipment in the department; and troubleshoots, analyzes problems and implements solutions to software and hardware issues.

Lastly, Jail Management is overseen by the Chief of Police who is responsible for the administration of the Lakewood-Busti Police Department Holding Cell; compliance with regulations pertaining to the operation of the Holding Cell; completion of required reports to the NYS Commission of Corrections; coordination of operational functions with the administrative function of the Holding Cell; and maintenance of the jail records.



TRAININGS ATTENDED IN 2025

Investigator Currie and Officer Calimeri attended the Juvenile Officer Symposium in Niagara Falls. Officer Calimeri attended Beginner Juvenile Investigations School and Investigator Currie attended Advanced Juvenile Investigations.

Investigator Currie and Officer Calimeri both attended Comprehensive Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Investigation School in Cheektowaga.

Officer Calimeri and Officer Gustafson both attended Property/Evidence Room Management School at Jamestown Community College.

Officer Peck attended RADAR/LIDAR School and Breath Test Operators School.

Sergeant Lundsten attended Instructor Development Course and successfully graduated as a General Topics Instructor.

Sergeant Cummings, Officer Swan, and Officer Gustafson have attended the quarterly meetings for the Chautauqua County Homicide Investigation Team this year.

Chief Bentley was the lead Master Instructor for 2 Instructor Development Schools. One in Chautauqua County and another in Cattaraugus County. Between both classes 40 new General Topics Instructors graduated.

Chief Bentley instructed at NYS Supervisors School, which was held at Jamestown Community College.



COMMUNITY SERVICE DETAILS FOR 2025

K9 Donations



Shop with a Cop at Walmart



Community Day at Busti Park

