

RALSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT YEAR END REPORT 2025



Chief of Police Comments

Dear Mayor, City Council Members and Citizens of the Community,

Upon entering my 34th year with the Ralston Police Department, the last nine of which as Chief of Police, I can find one word to describe our department in 2025, "stability". For the first time since at least 2020, the department was at full authorized strength the entire year, no vacancies, no slots to fill, just fourteen (14) officers working day in and day out to serve the great citizens of this city. There are a few positive benefits of being at full authorized strength. As we will mention further in this report, less overtime is typically used when we have full shifts operating on both days and nights. Morale also takes a higher ground as we are not constantly moving officers around to cover gaps in shifts caused by training, sickness or vacations. However, it is not a full proof solution to the needs of this department and the City of Ralston that it serves and does not tell the whole story. As you will see, our officers responded to 11,923 calls for service in 2025, a 30% increase from the year before. We have new Hinge developments that are finally coming to fruition this year, including the addition of well over 400 apartment type units just in the stretch from 72nd Street to 76th Street along Main Street. Apartment complexes are our busiest entities for calls, and these new ones will be no exception. We also are "short handed" so to speak on day shifts. Our typical night shift consists of a Sergeant and two road patrol officers however our day shifts only consist of a Sergeant and one road officer. This is the shift that takes the hardest hit when we have officers needing to take time off as we do occasionally have to move officers around to cover vacancies. We have had numerous times lately of officers working alone on weekends. For this reason, I have instituted a plan that will pay overtime to officers signing up for any weekend shift that has an officer working alone during the day. Our department is also well under the number of officers per capita based on local, state and federal statistics. Increasingly larger calls loads, understaffed shifts, tremendous influx of development coming to Ralston and the issue of being statistically lower per capita in department size are just a few of the numerous reasons why my goal is to work with City leaders to increase our maximum fully authorized strength from fourteen (14) officers to sixteen (16) officers in the coming fiscal year(s).

Police officers rely on their department and local government to supply them with the necessary tools needed to complete their job tasks daily in a safe and efficient manner. Cruiser fleet management has always been a goal of mine since becoming Chief and this year we are on pace to getting back to a normal schedule of turning over cruisers every two years. This helps with costly maintenance schedules on older cruisers and allows our officers to rely on healthy cruisers that are not always down for repairs. All cruiser cameras have mostly been updated with the newest versions supported by Motorola Solutions. Cameras throughout the City have been upgraded in some areas and new cameras are being purchased to monitor some key additions to the City of Ralston. 2025 also saw a generous Ralston police supporter donate the funds to acquire another addition to our Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Fleet (UAV's or drones) as we were able to purchase a smaller drone that is capable of flying into small spaces in homes or businesses. Our drone operators just this last half year have been requested or have responded to other jurisdictions, as well as in our own City, to assist in active situations multiple times. Drones have become an integral part of law enforcement as department's nationwide have been utilizing them to assist in many areas including investigations, scene management of any major incident, looking for lost children or elderly persons, or for monitoring large scale events such as our Independence Day parade celebration and the surrounding events of that holiday.

Training, as always, will be a top priority for this department. Of the state mandated continuing education hours all our officers must complete we would need a total of 448 hours tracked for the year. Training hours for 2025 were up slightly from 2024 (+3.5%) with us managing to log 1238 hours of total training for the department. We all participate in the mandated topics of defensive tactics, firearms, emergency vehicle operations and pursuit policy review, anti-bias and implicit bias, officer wellness, substance abuse, de-escalation, child abuse, legal updates and domestic violence. Our department also trains in other topics, such as behavioral health response, diversity training, interview and interrogations, excited delirium, Ethics, and a variety of others. We have a well rounded and excellently trained group of officers that serve this City.

Things are already looking promising for 2026. Our department will continue to serve and protect this community with integrity, honor, pride and professionalism. Should you have any questions about this report, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Marc A. Leonardo
Chief of Police



RPD and DCSO team up for a joint DUI Task Force.



Sgt. Leifeld and Det. Batterman win the MADD award for MIP enforcement.



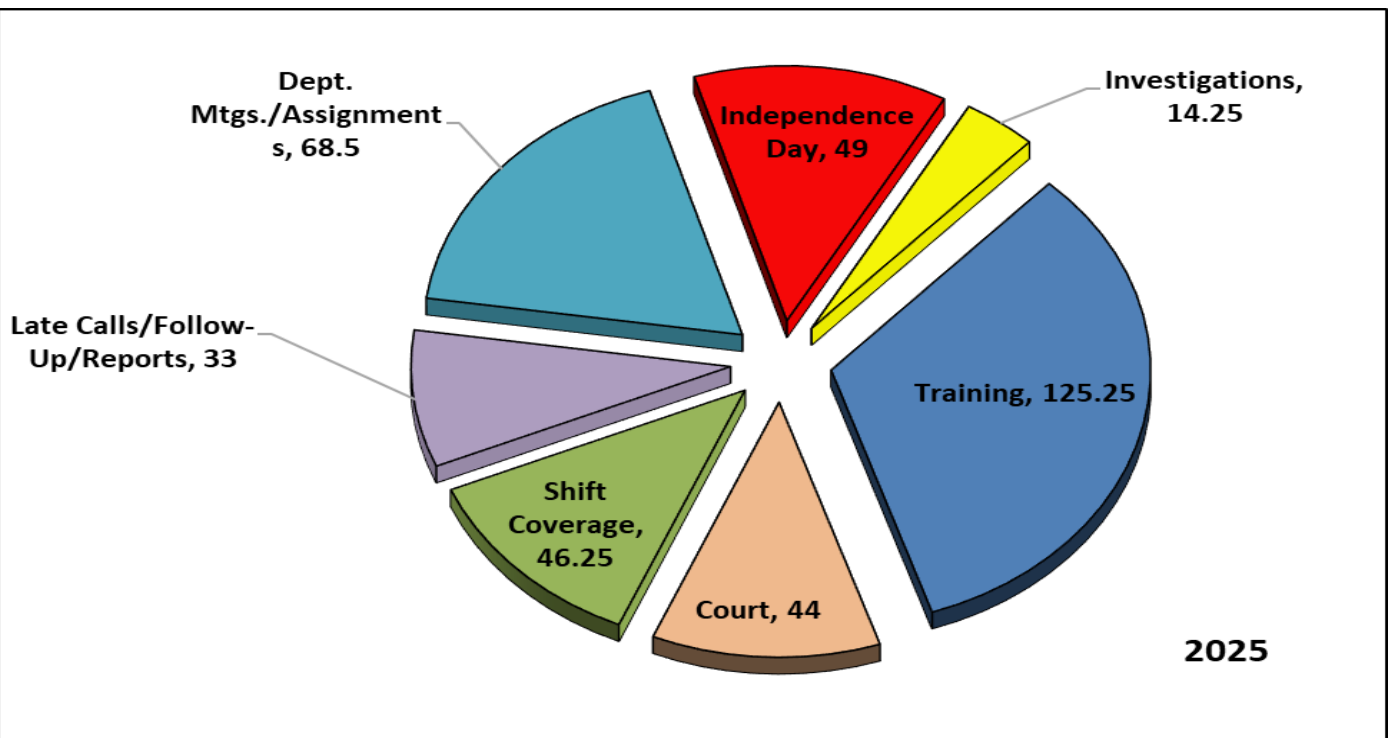
RPD participates in 1st Responders Night at Werner Park.



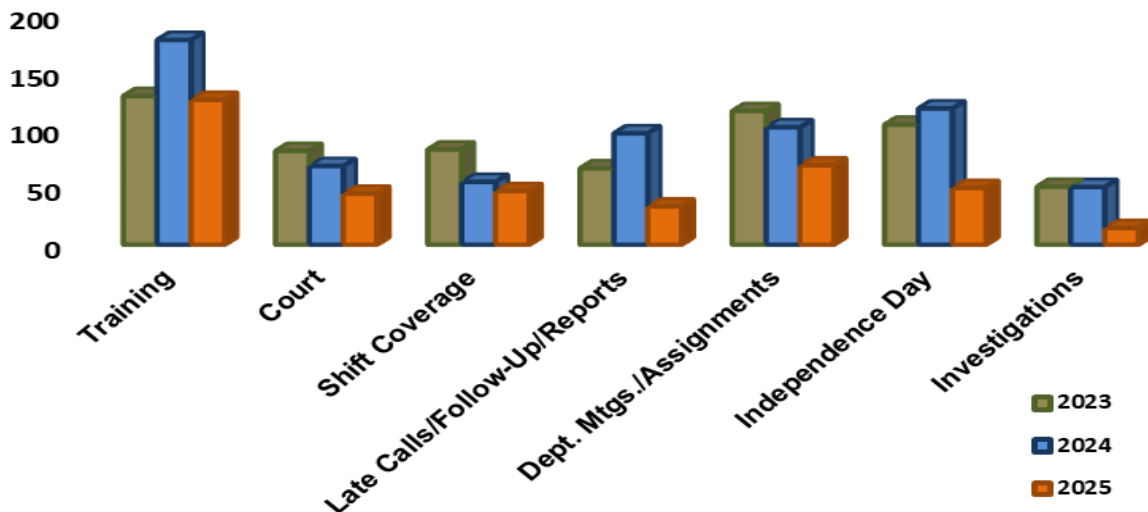
Thanks to funds from a generous donor, RPD receives an interior UAS platform, a DJI Avata 2.

Non-Reimbursable Overtime

The department had significant decreases in overtime expenditures in 2025. Total overtime hours decreased from 664 hours in 2024 to 380 hours in 2025. This is a decrease of nearly 43% from 2024. Every overtime category saw decreases in 2025. Thanks to the city moving fireworks to July 3, the department's overtime for Independence Day alone decreased by over 58%. Several factors led to the smaller amount of overtime hours such as officers doing an excellent job of flexing out training hours or the simple fact that the department, for the first time in over five years, was fully staffed for the entire year which prevented paying overtime for some shift coverages.

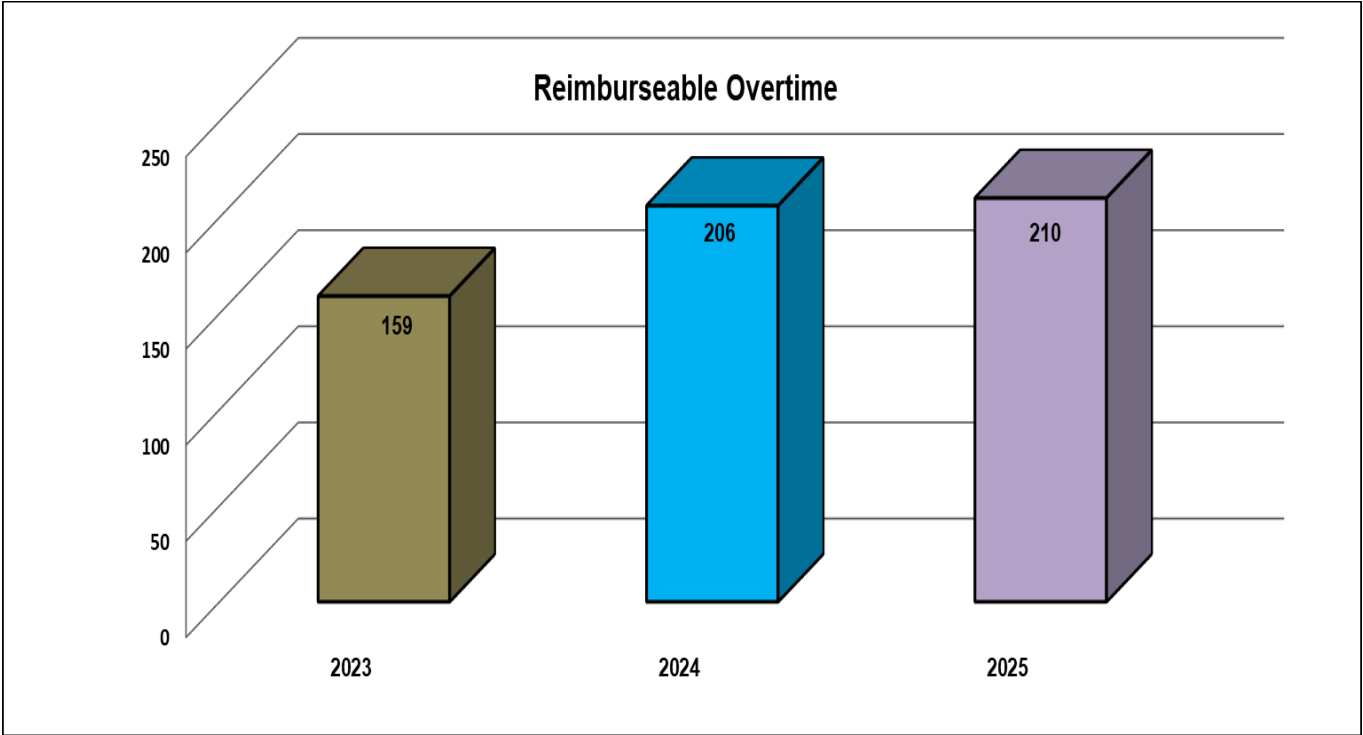


Non-Reimbursable Overtime



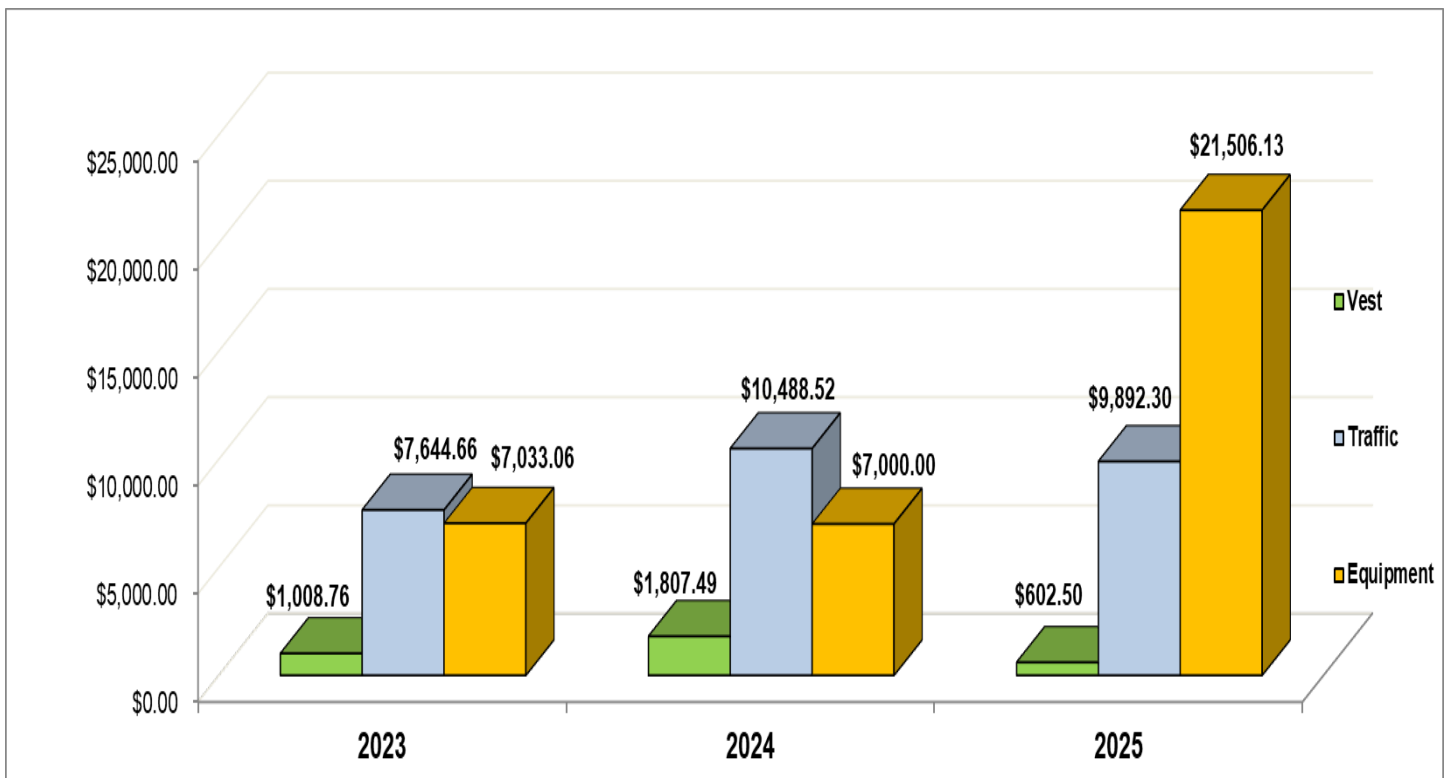
Reimbursable Overtime

Every year the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety has several grants available to pay for agencies to participate in traffic enforcement initiatives. These grant funds paid 100% of overtime wages for officers who participated in these initiatives. In 2025 RPD once again participated in the U Text, U Drive, U Pay campaign, the Drug Impaired Driving campaign, Make It Click seat belt initiative, two Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over operations, and a speeding enforcement campaign. During these events, additional officers worked saturation patrols, focusing on traffic related offenses to ensure seat belt compliance, remove drivers impaired by alcohol and/or drugs from the streets, and locate drivers distracted by mobile devices and speeders. Project Extra Mile also provided funds for officers to work with the Douglas County DUI Task Force to take impaired drivers off the road. They also provided funds for officers to take part in county wide compliance checks to ensure businesses are not selling alcohol to minors. 2025 saw reimbursable overtime grant hours remain steady going from 206 hours in 2024 to 210 hours in 2025, a minimal 2% increase.



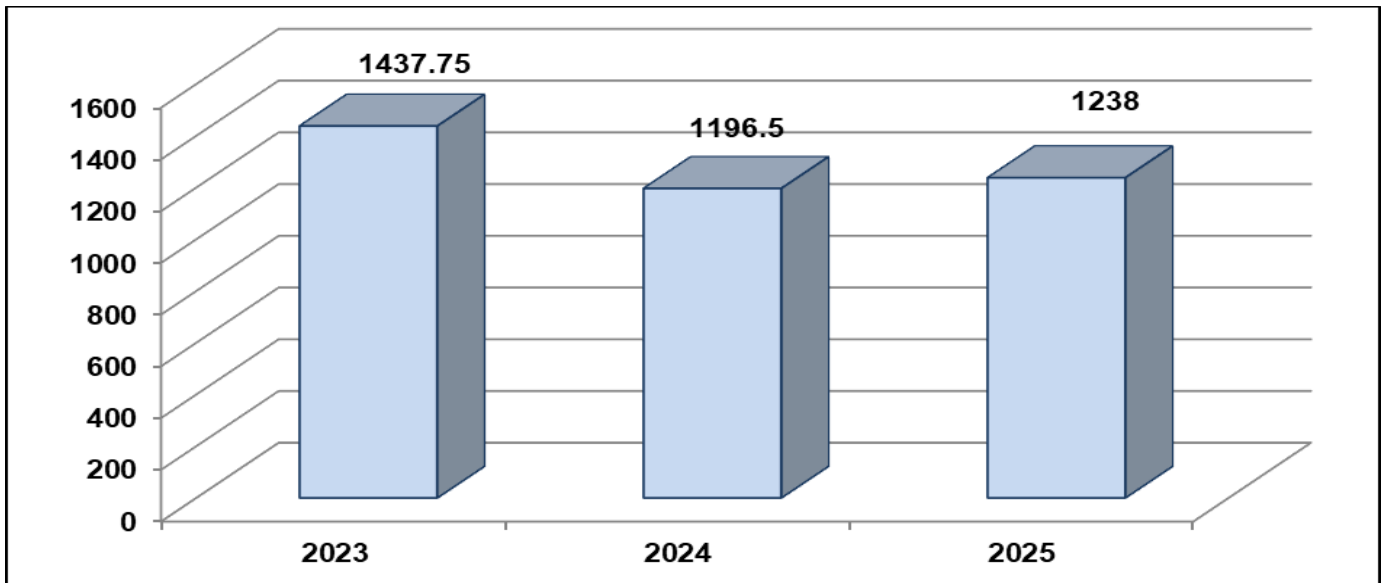
Grants

Grants are always important for the department, and 2025 was no different. Ballistic vest manufacturers recommend vests are replaced every five years. The U.S. Department of Justice provided a grant for \$602.50 to assist the department in purchasing vests for officers. As mentioned on the previous page, the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety approved grants for extra patrol for the traffic enforcement campaigns listed on the previous page. In all the state paid \$9,892.30 for officers to work extra hours during these campaigns. Ever evolving new technology forces police departments to stay current on the equipment that officers rely upon on a daily basis. RPD received funds from the state to cover costs of two new cruiser camera systems to replace old systems that were at end of life. Also, with Windows 10 reaching end of life in 2025, the police department had to purchase new mobile data computers and docking stations for four of our cruisers. In total, RPD received \$21,506.13 from the Nebraska Department of Transportation-Highway Safety Office to upgrade the equipment for our cruisers, a nearly 200% increase in funds over the last two years. This equipment is vital for our mission to serve the citizens of Ralston.



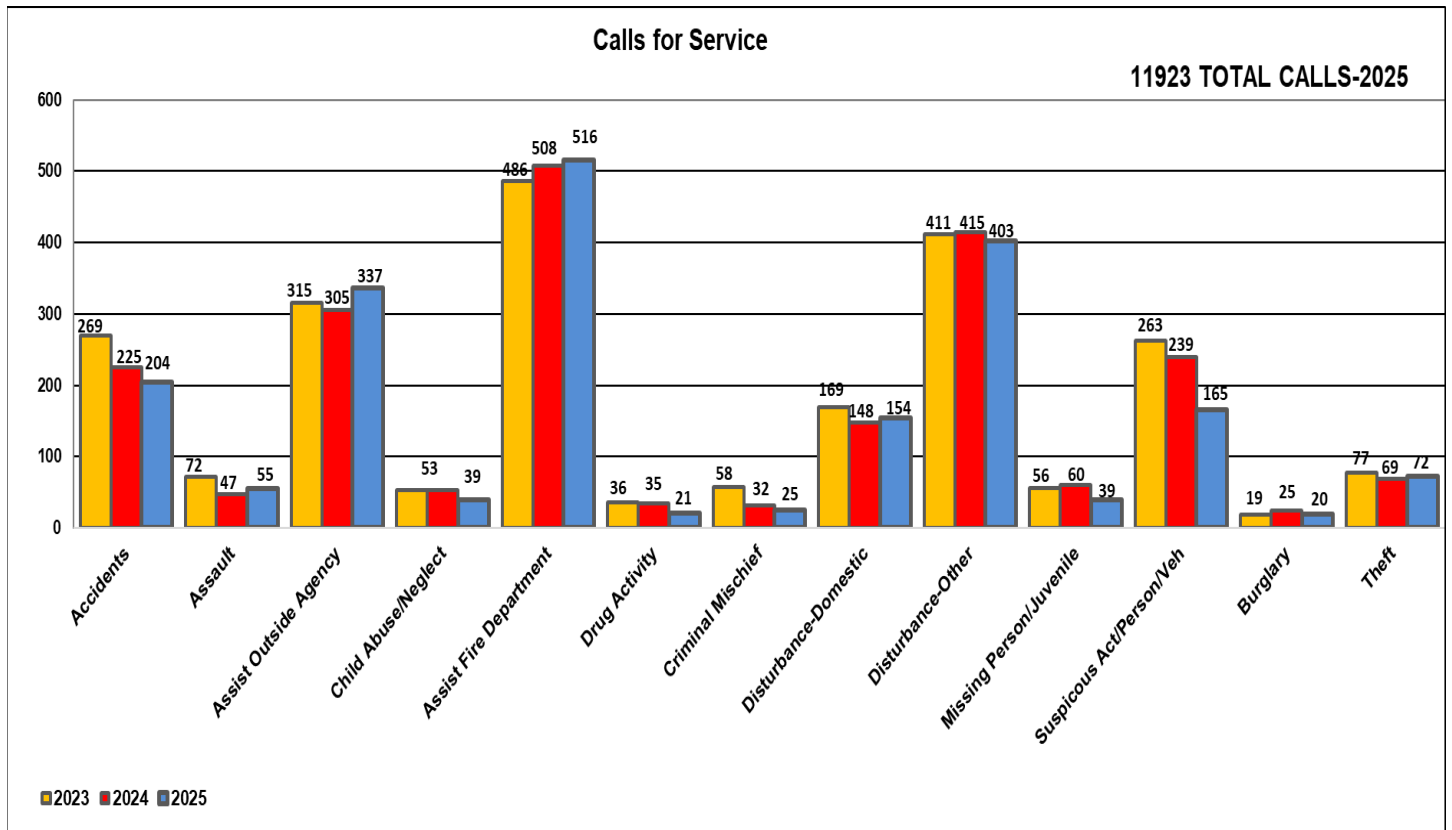
Training

The Ralston Police Department is proud to provide our officers the most up-to-date and relevant training available to allow them to do their jobs most effectively. Training allows officers to be knowledgeable on new trends and current best practices in a variety of fields which allows them to perform their duties effectively and safely. Not only does training build knowledge, but it also trains the mind and body how to respond to situations in a fraction of the time it would take without training. RPD's training hours increased slightly (+3.5%) in 2025. Training topics that are mandated annually by the state include firearms, pursuit policy review, anti-bias and implicit bias, officer wellness, substance abuse, de-escalation, and legal updates. Along with these state mandated trainings, the department takes pride in providing officers training to enhance their abilities to perform their jobs, as well as advance their careers. In 2025 officers received training in a wide variety of categories that will help in their service to the citizens of Ralston. RPD officers received training above and beyond what is required by the state that gives our officers the tools and knowledge to perform at a high level. The average number of training hours per officer in 2025 was 88.4, well above the 32 hours of continuing education that is required by the state.



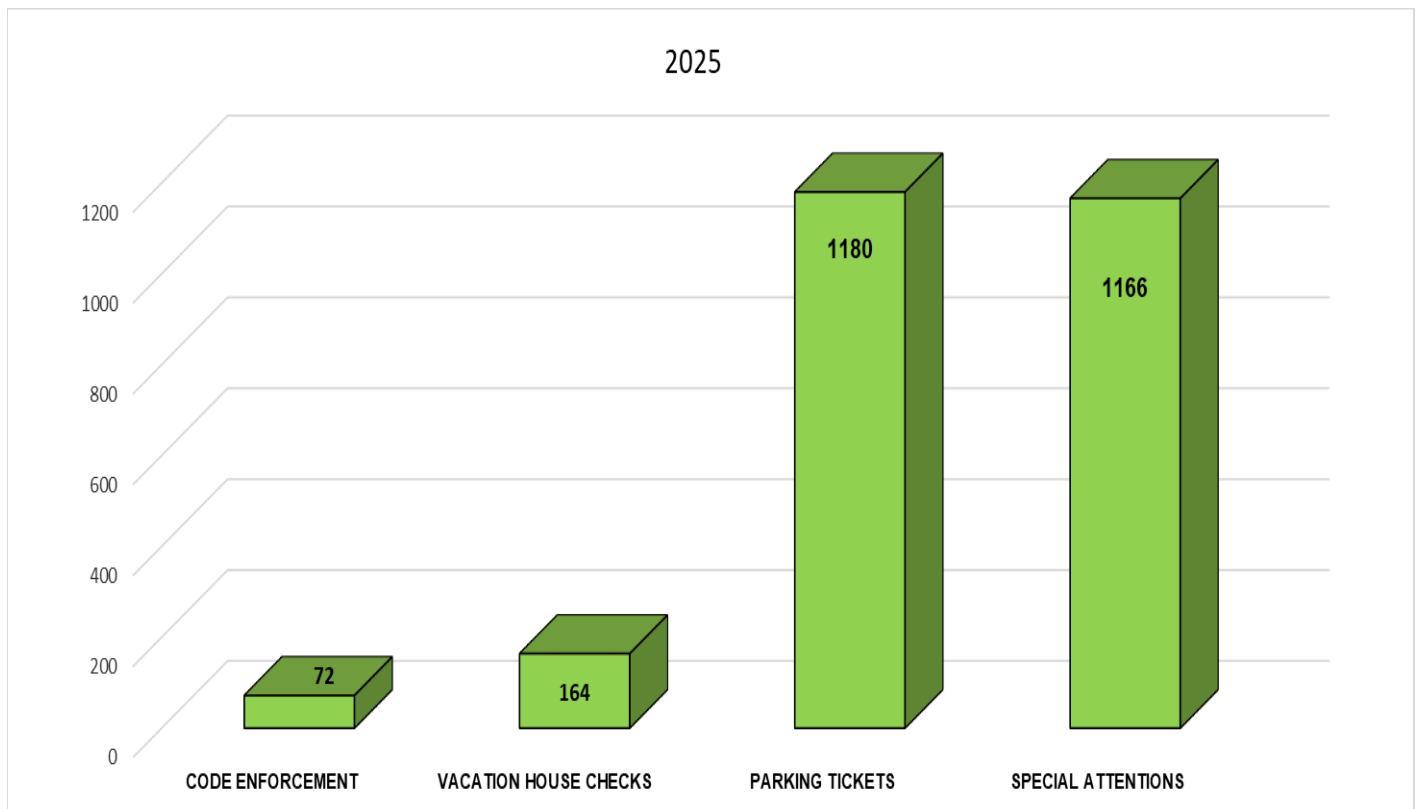
Calls For Service

Calls for service include everything our officers do on a daily basis, excluding traffic stops. In 2025 Ralston officers responded to 11,923 calls for service, compared to 9,125 in 2024. This is an increase of 30%. A call for service is generated every time an officer responds to a call, makes contact with a citizen, checks a business, writes red tags, blue tags, parking tickets, does school patrols, or conducts any type of special attention. These calls for service automatically generate a case file number in our report management system. The graph below illustrates thirteen major categories of calls. The following page will break down other miscellaneous categories that are still considered calls for service. Although some numbers remained similar to previous years, some increases and decreases stand out. Calls for Accidents (-9.3%), Child Abuse/Neglect (-26.4%), Drug Activity (-37%), Criminal Mischief (-21.8%), Non-Domestic Disturbance (-2.9%), Missing Persons/Juveniles (-39%), Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle (-30.9%), and Burglary (-20%) all decreased from 2024. RPD saw more calls in 2025 for Assault (+17%), Assist Outside Agency (+10.5%), Assist Fire (+1.6%), Domestic Disturbance (+4%), and Theft (+4%).



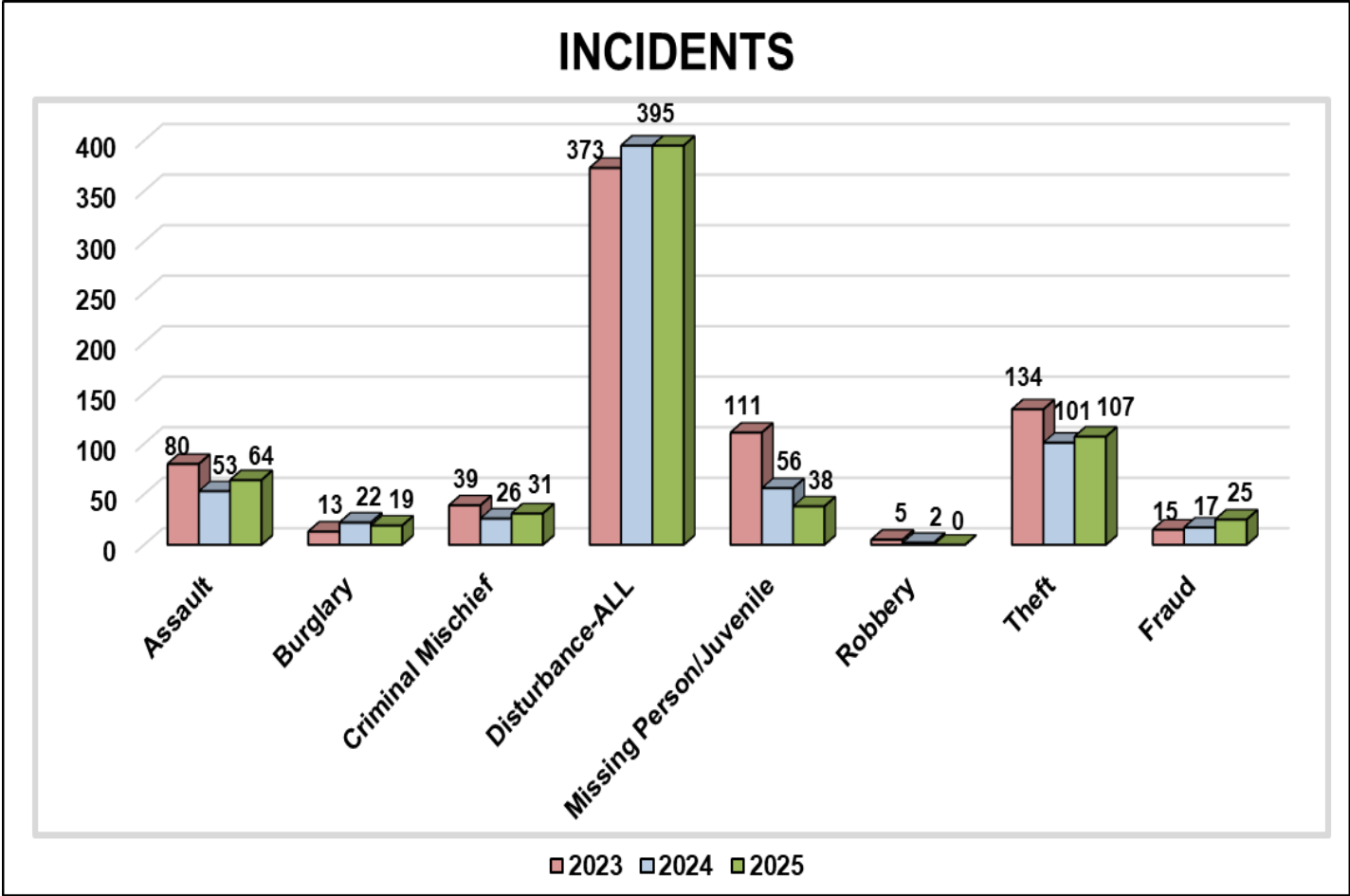
Miscellaneous Activity

Of the 11,923 calls for service our officers handled in 2025, four are listed below as miscellaneous activity. These are broken down separately due to their significance to keeping the City of Ralston a safe place to live. Special attentions can include watching an open or closed business for suspicious activity, conducting traffic enforcement on streets or intersections that have received complaints, driving neighborhoods at night looking for unusual activity or open doors on cars or garages, patrolling any of our local schools for traffic, pedestrian or criminal activity. These activities are all vitally important to ensure the safety of our city. RPD officers conducted 1,166 special attentions in 2025, an increase of 2% from 2024. Enforcing code violations increases the public's positive perception of the image and livability of the City. The department handled 72 code enforcement cases in 2025, up from 60 the previous year (+20%). Vacation house checks is a service the department offers to citizens who would like us to keep watch of their homes while they are away. Officers conducted 164 vacation house checks in 2025 compared to 117 in 2024. Officers also enforce parking ordinances throughout the city. In 2025, officers wrote 1180 parking citations, an increase of over 93% from 2024.



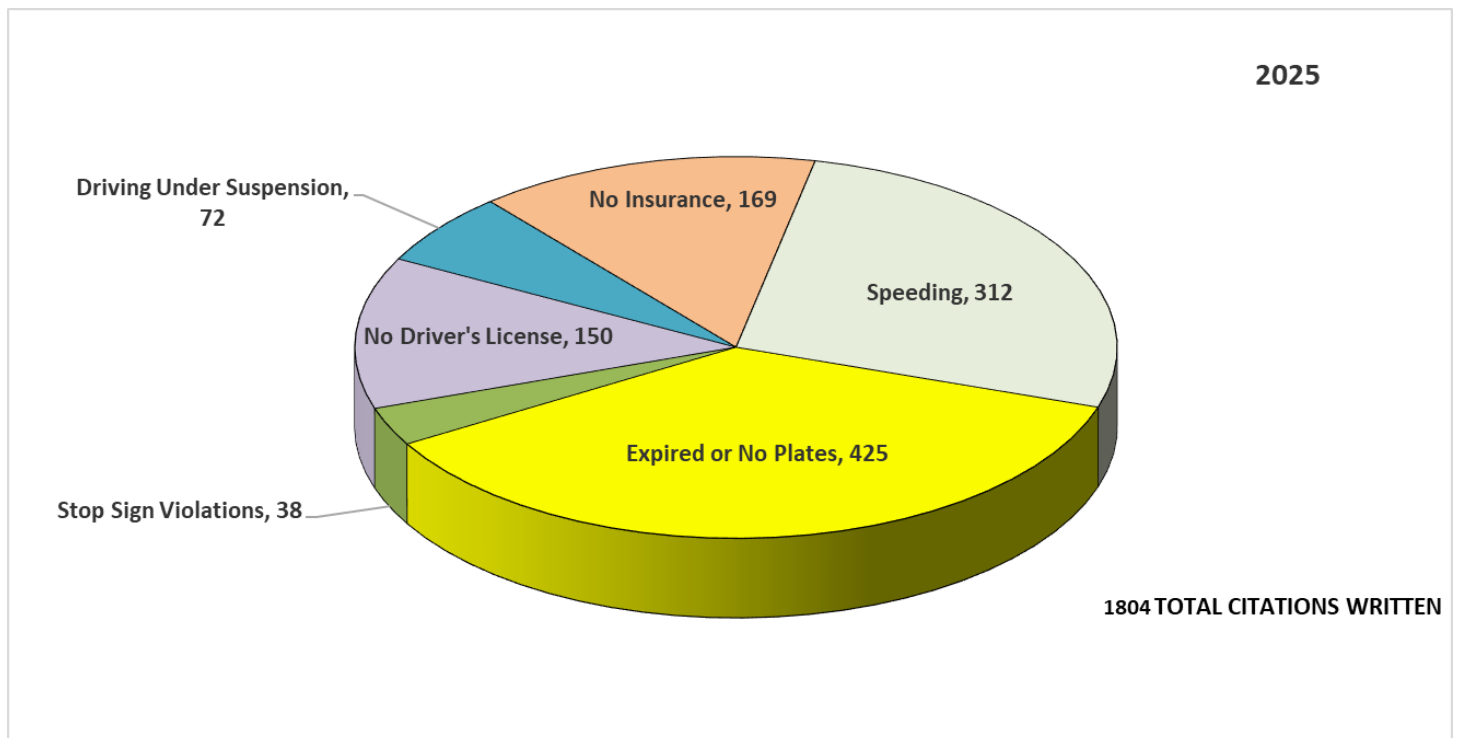
Incidents

An incident is a situation where a police report was completed with a case number assigned to it. Not all types of incidents are reflected on the graph below. However, it does reflect the most common reports taken. The Ralston Police Department generated 4,210 documented police reports in 2025, a 16% increase from 2024. Sometimes officers are dispatched to a call and later learn through their investigation that a different or additional crime occurred. Sometimes people want to file a police report to document an incident; however, they do not wish to pursue criminal charges or initiate a criminal investigation. These are the types of situations which are categorized as an Incident. We saw increases and decreases across categories of incidents in 2025. Reports for Assault (+20.7%), Criminal Mischief (+19%), Theft (+6.9%), and Fraud (+47%) all increased from 2024. Reports for Burglary (-13.6%), and Robbery (-100%) decreased in 2025, more than likely due to officers continued proactive approach to paying special attention to businesses and residences during closing and overnight hours. Reports for Disturbances remained the same in 2025 with 395 reports.



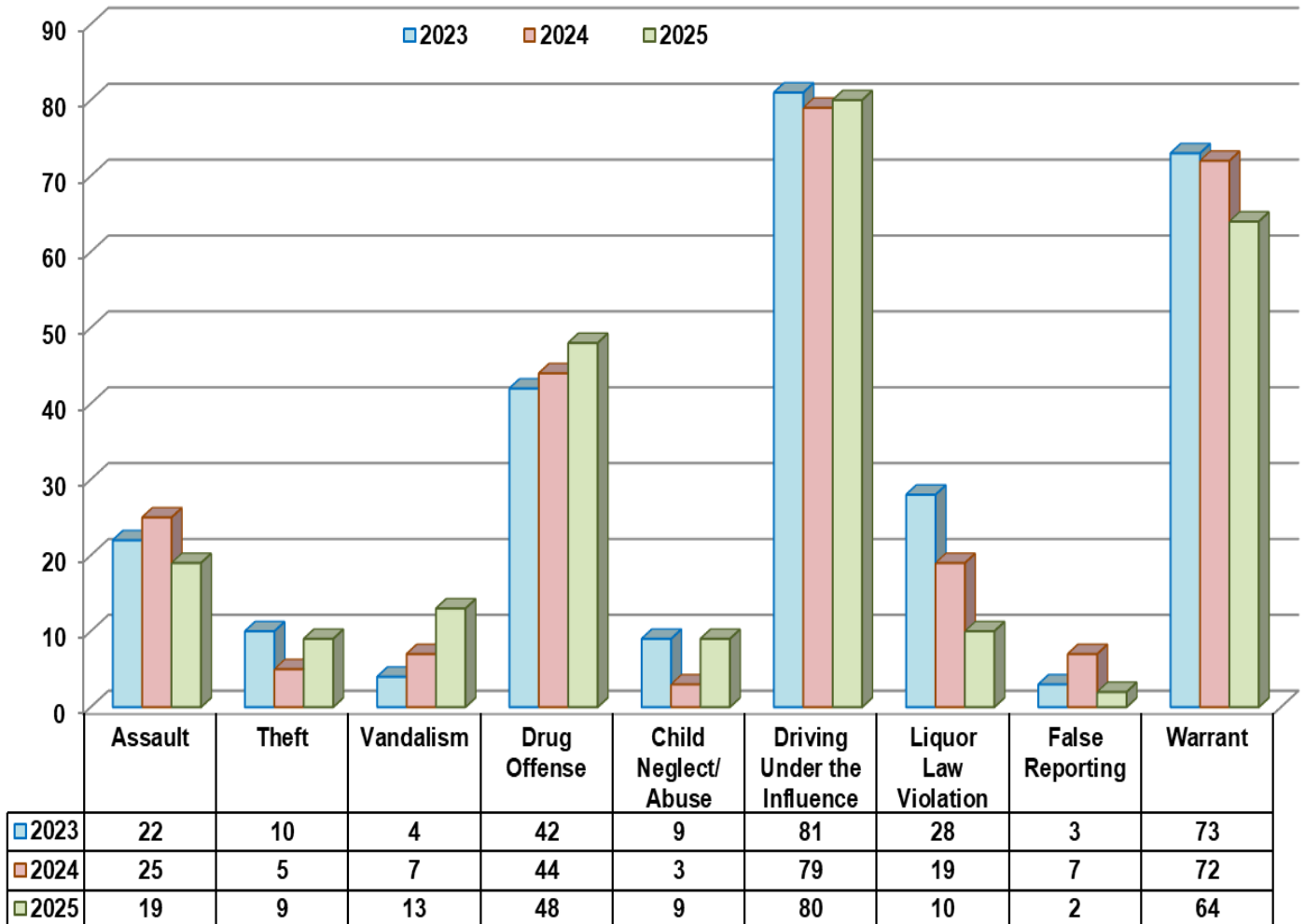
Citations

Ralston officers conducted 2,483 traffic stops in 2025, an increase of 47% from 2024. These stops resulted in a 37% increase in citations written in 2025 with a total of 1,804 citations issued. Not all traffic violations are displayed on the graph, but some of the major violations are listed. RPD saw increased numbers of citations in all these categories. Not all traffic stops result in traffic citations being issued. Officers realize that educating a violator can be very effective in changing driving behavior. In these situations, written and verbal warnings are used to inform drivers of their errors and help provide them with an opportunity to correct the issue without a fine being associated with it. RPD officers issued 951 written warnings in 2025, an increase of 78% from 2024. Additionally, some stops are the result of some kind of vehicle defect. In these situations, defect violations are issued to the drivers to ensure the defect is corrected. In 2025, officers issued 410 defect violations compared to 324 in 2024.



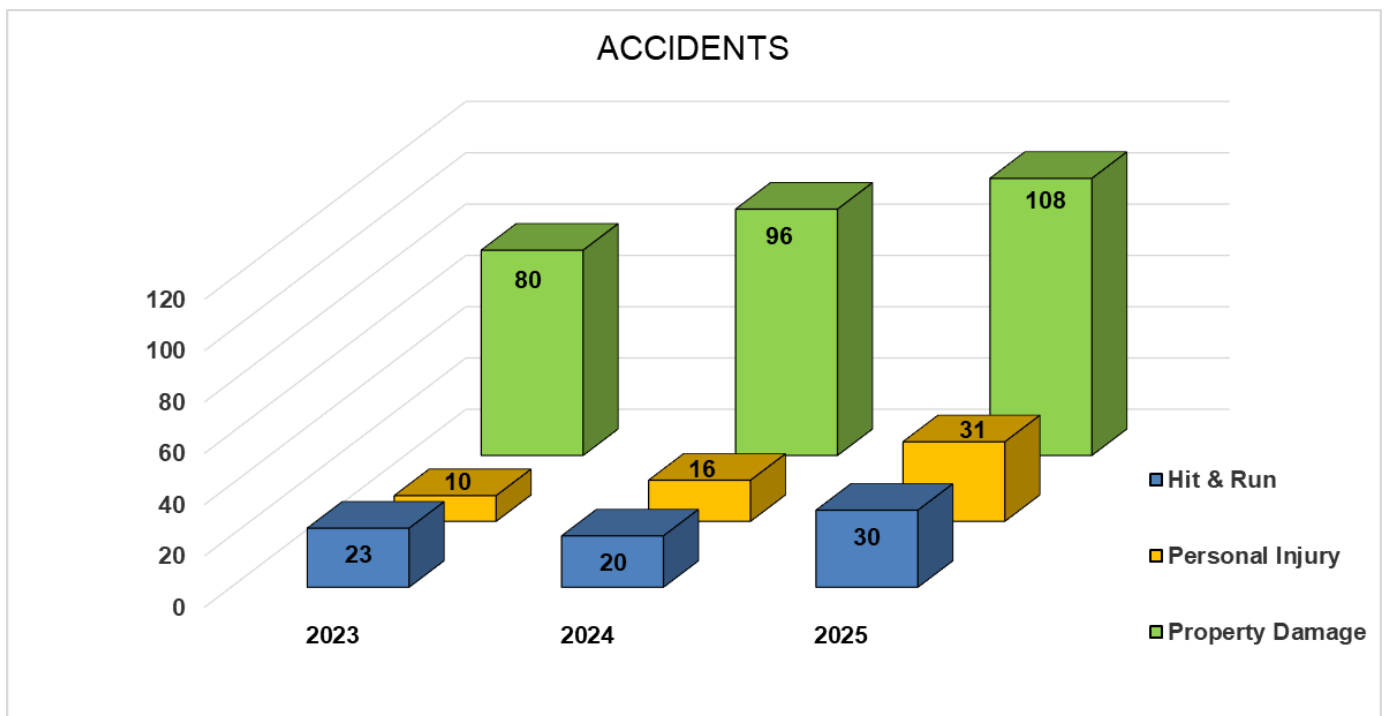
Arrests

Each year we see the number of arrests in each of the categories listed ebb and flow depending on crimes being committed in the city and if victims wish to pursue criminal charges. 2025 was no different. Lower arrest numbers can be attributed to a lack of cooperation by a victim, insufficient evidence to make an arrest, or the investigation reveals no criminal offense occurred therefore no arrests can be made. As in years past, 2025 saw increases in arrests for some categories and decreases in others. Arrests for Theft (+80%), Criminal Mischief/Vandalism (+85.7%), Drug Offenses (+9%), and Child Abuse/Neglect (+200%) were all higher in 2025 than 2024. Other categories saw a decrease in arrests in 2025. These included Assault (-24%), Liquor Law Violations (-47%), False Reporting (-71%)and Warrant Arrests (-11%). RPD officers made 80 arrests for DUI in 2025, slightly higher than 2024.



Motor Vehicle Crashes

The Ralston Police Department investigates many motor vehicle crashes every year. These crashes are broken down into three categories: Property Damage, Personal Injury (including fatalities), and Hit and Run. Officers responded to 169 crashes in 2025, an increase of 28% from 2024. RPD saw increases in all three categories in 2025. Personal injury crashes increased by nearly 94%, property damage crashes increased by 12.5%, and hit and run crashes increased by 50% in 2025. Several of these crashes occurred throughout the city, but the vast majority occurred on or near the perimeter thoroughfares of 84th Street, 72nd Street, and Harrison Street.



Notable Events

January	After receiving two donated UAS platforms in December of 2024, RPD establishes a drone program.
February	Liberty First Credit Union Arena hosts the funeral service for Nebraska State Patrol Trooper Kyle McAcy which was attended by law enforcement officers from across the country.
April	RPD takes part in the U Drive, U Text, U Pay distracted driving traffic campaign. RPD officers take part in a region wide drug impaired driving traffic campaign. RPD takes part in the national Prescription Drug Take Back day. Ofc. Bode throws out the first pitch at a Ralston 12U game on their 1 st Responders Tribute Night.
May	National Police Week. RPD takes part in the Make It Click traffic campaign. RPD investigates a crash with serious injuries at 84 th and Lakeview Street. Sgt. Leifeld and Det. Batterman win a MADD award for their diligence in MIP enforcement. RPD participates in Werner Park's 1 st Responders Night.
July	Independence Day – Always RPD's busiest day of the year. RPD takes part in the Speeding Catches Up With You traffic campaign. A lifelong public servant and fixture of the city, Dave Shively, passes away.
August	RPD and DCSO team up for DUI enforcement as part of the Douglas County DUI Task Force. RPD participates in the first Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over traffic initiative of the year.
October	Ralston participates in the Prescription Drug Take Back event. Officers participate in three Trunk or Treat events in the city.
December	RPD participated in the holiday Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over traffic initiative. Thanks to funds from a generous donor, RPD receives an interior UAS platform, a DJI Avata 2.

Training

January	Sexual Assault Investigations Instructor Development Peer Support
February	Child Abuse Investigations Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents Patrol Officer Response to Street Drugs
March	Multi-Agency Drone Training
April	Speaking of Children Investigative Statement Analysis Advanced Traffic Stops Advanced Criminal Investigations
May	Taser Instructor Recertification Firearms/Patrol Rifle Instructor Recertification Officers Response to Street Drugs
June	Emergency Vehicle Operations Firearms
July	UAS Legal Update Historical Cell Site Analysis NASRO Basic SRO Training
August	PepperBall Recertification Alcohol Enforcement Training Auto Theft and Vehicle Crimes Body Language for Law Enforcement Recognizing Pre-Attack Indicators
September	Fair and Impartial Policing Mental Health Officer Wellness Substance Abuse Firearms Qualifications MOCIC Conference
October	POAN Conference Taser Recertification Duty to Intercede Arrest, Search, and Seizure Officer Liability Behavioral Threat Assessments for Schools Finding the Leader in You Criminal Intelligence Systems Operations and Policy
November	Nebraska Legislative Updates De-Escalation/Defensive Tactics
December	Active Shooter Active Shooter Preparation and Response in Schools Community Policing Ambush Awareness and Preparation