

2015

Joplin Police Department

Quarterly Report



4th Quarter 2015

October 1st to December 31st

Prepared by Office of Internal Affairs

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a statistical analysis of the lethal, less-lethal, and non-lethal force used by the JPD Officer and JPD Detention Officers; and enhance transparency between the Department and its stakeholders within the City of Joplin.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Joplin Police Department is to work with all citizens to preserve life, maintain human rights, and protect property; to hold ourselves accountable to our community and to recognized industry standards; to reduce crime, and the fear of crime, by facilitating positive police-citizen contacts. It is critical that all department personnel understand, accept, and be aligned with these responsibilities and the concept of quality public service.

VALUE STATEMENT

We, the members of the Joplin Police Department, recognize that our contribution to the quality of life in our community is best served by providing the finest professional law enforcement services found in the State of Missouri. We will meet the challenge of providing these services by basing our thoughts and actions on the following shared values.

Our Community

The foundation of our law enforcement agency is the principal of the protection of the worth, dignity and rights of all we serve. We take pride in the opportunity to provide to our community high quality services which are fair, courteous, consistent, impartial, thorough, timely, and professional.

Our Integrity

We value and expect candor, honest and ethical behaviors in the members of our department. We are committed to upholding our positions of trust by maintaining the highest ethical standards as set forth in the law enforcement code of ethics, and our own departmental principals.

Our Accountability

We value the need for effective use of our resources, and the straightforward communications with our department and the citizens we serve. We are responsible for our actions, willing to admit our mistakes. We will work to ensure that our conduct earns the support and trust of all segments of the public that we serve.

Our Professionalism

We value the spirit of professionalism, having a clear sense of commitment, perspective and direction. It has been developed by creating an environment that encourages teamwork, innovation and constant evaluation of ourselves. Our professional attitude is dedicated to high quality, timeliness, and excellence in our service to our community.

Our Pride

We believe our work to be a source of enjoyment and satisfaction. We are proud of our accomplishments as an integral part of our community. We do not take ourselves so seriously that we fail to enjoy what we choose to do - serving the citizens of Joplin by being a member of the Joplin Police Department.

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Use of Force Policy and Definitions

Officers are confronted daily with situations requiring the use of force to affect an arrest or ensure public safety. The degree of force used depends on what the officer perceives as reasonable and necessary under the circumstances at the time he or she decides to use force. Except for deadly force, the application of any degree of force is justified only when the officer reasonably believes that it is necessary:

- To prevent the escape from custody, make an arrest or an investigative detention of a person the officer believes has committed a crime.
- To defend him or herself or another from what the officer believes is the use of force while trying to arrest another, prevent the suspect's escape, or otherwise lawfully take the person into custody.
- To disperse persons participating in an unlawful assembly.

Deadly force: Any force applied in any manner by any means that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical injury. (RSMo 563.011)

Non-deadly force : Force employed which is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious physical injury.

Firearms: Any weapon from which a projectile is forcibly ejected by an explosive.

Reasonable belief : When facts or circumstances the officer knows, or should know, are such as to cause an ordinary and prudent person to act or think reasonably in a similar way under similar circumstances.

Serious physical injury: Bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which is likely to cause serious permanent disfigurement or loss, or extended impairment of the function of anybody member or organ.

Objectively Reasonable Force : The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments - in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving - about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation. The question is whether the officers' actions are "objectively reasonable" in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or motivation. Because "the test of reasonableness under the Fourth Amendment is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application," however, its proper application requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

Use of Force Overview

In the fourth quarter of 2015 Joplin Police Officers employed some level of force 49 times to effect an arrest or assist with a prisoner/medical patient. There were 83 officer involvements, meaning that in some arrests more than one officer was involved. During the fourth quarter of 2014 Joplin Police Officers employed some level of force 35 times to effect an arrest or assist with a prisoner/medical patient. There were 63 officer involvements.

The analysis provided is based upon averages. The actual use of force by individual officers can be influenced by a number of factors such as assignment, patrol area, shift, number of hours worked and other variables.

- Joplin Police Officers made 1,693 arrests during the fourth quarter of 2015.
 - Joplin Police Officers made 1,900 arrests during the fourth quarter of 2014.
- When at full strength the Joplin Police Department has 112 officers.
- Use of force occurred an average of once in every 34.5 arrests for the fourth quarter of 2015.
 - Use of force occurred an average of once in every 54.2 arrests during the same time period in 2014

Profile of Use-of-force Incidents received between October 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015

Total number of use-of-force incidents:	49
Total number of officers involved:	83

Type of force tally

The following statistics are a comprehensive breakdown of individual use of force events. As such, they are representative of the dynamic and fluid nature of such events wherein a single use of force event is comprised of phases of escalation and de-escalation. A number of levels of force and methods of force are utilized to bring about a successful resolution to the event. The following numbers reflect the multiple efforts in use of force events and do not represent a change in the total use of force events listed above.

Type of Force	Total #	Type of Force	Total
Active Pointing of Weapon	9	Knee Strike	1
Arm bar	3	OC Spray	2
Canine	2	Physical Restraint	9
Come-Along	2	Pressure Point(s)	1
Control Hold	12	Push	4
Empty Hand Control	11	Take to Ground	5
Escort	2	Taser	6
Handgun	1	Thrust Kick	1
Hobble Restraints	4	Tinsley	4
Impact Munitions	1	Verbal Direction	32
Joint Lock	2	Wrist Lock	1

Taser Usage

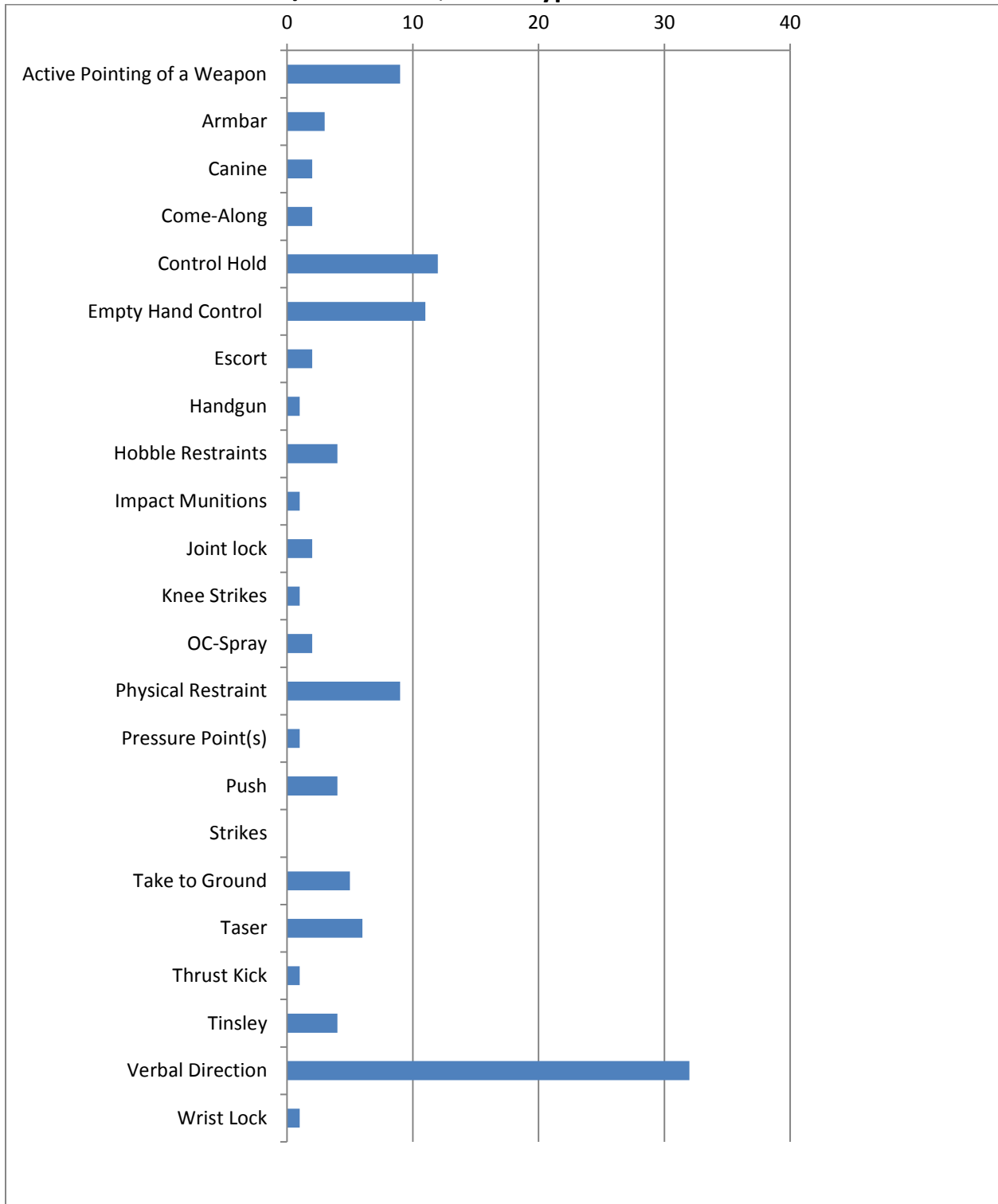
- Tasers were deployed 6 times during the fourth quarter of 2015.
 - Tasers were deployed 9 times during the same quarter of 2014.
- Tasers were deployed an average of once in every 282 arrests in the fourth quarter of 2015.
 - Tasers were deployed an average of once in every 211 arrests in the same quarter of 2014.
- The average number of Taser deployments were 2 times per month during the third quarter of 2015.
- The Use of Taser rate is 0.35% of the total number of arrests made in this period.

Type of Force /Quarterly Comparison Graph

It should be noted that there were 49 Use of Force events for the fourth quarter of 2015. The numbers on the chart below will show a higher number. One should take into consideration that many use of force events have more than one type of force used. For example, if verbal direction is given, and the party still fails to comply with the officer, that officer will move to a different type of force.

See Following Page for Graph

2014/2015 4th Quarter Types of Force Used



Citizen Resistance Tally

Types of Resistance

Psychological Intimidation – Verbal and non-Verbal cues indicative of a subject’s mental or physical preparedness to resist and/or assault the officer or others.

Non-Compliance – Non-compliance or verbal responses or threats of non-compliance to officer’s directions.

Passive Resistance - Dead weight; no active participation, not influencing, not exerting any force (internal or otherwise)

Active Resistance - Clinging to objects in an attempt to prevent the officer from gaining control, exerting influence by physical effort or action. (i.e. using muscle tension to prevent movement)

Escape Resistance - Fleeing, pushing or pulling away from the officer to avoid control; however, not attempting to harm the officer.

Active Aggression - Physical actions of assault.

Deadly Force Threat – Assaults with the perceived intent and apparent ability to cause death or great bodily harm.

Reason	Count	Percent of total
Active Aggression	7	7%
Active Resistance	16	15%
Deadly Force Assault on Ofc.	1	1%
Escape Resistance	21	20%
Felony Car Stop	10	10%
Knife	1	1%
Non-Compliance	30	29%
None	3	3%
Passive Resistance	7	7%
Psychological Intimidation	2	2%
Self Harm	2	2%
Showed Great Strength	4	4%
Spit	1	1%
Total	105	

Arrests and Charges

Citizen arrested in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	Percent of total
No	8	16%
Yes	41	84%
Total	49	

Tally of charges against involved citizens:

Charge	Count	Percent of total
96 Hour Mental Commit	7	11%
Assault	1	2%
Assault on Officer	1	2%
Domestic Assault	1	2%
DWI/DUI	1	2%
Felony Resisting Arrest	4	6%
Felony Warrant	5	8%
Misdemeanor Warrant	7	11%
Not Arrested/Charged	2	3%
Obstructing service	5	8%
Other Felony PC	5	8%
Other Misdemeanor PC	6	9%
Possession of Controlled Substance	3	5%
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	3	5%
Possession of Marijuana	3	5%
Resisting Arrest	10	15%
Traffic Violation	1	2%
Total	65	

Injuries

Injury-The Missouri Criminal Code defines injury in Chapter 565.070 as *physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition*. Our current category for injuries only includes injured or not injured. For the purpose of reporting injuries, Injuries will include visible injuries such as contusions and bruises, lacerations, punctures, scratches and abrasions. It will also include any complaint of physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition which may not be clearly visible, however an Officer reasonably believes is caused from the type of force that was used on the Officer or Subject. Officers and subjects may have more than one visible injury (i.e. a contusion and an abrasion) however these are only counted as one “injury” in relation to the use of force event. This data will not include pre-existing injuries in relation to the use of force event.

Taken to Hospital- Subject or Officer was taken to hospital for treatment as a result of the use of force event. This may occur for a number of reasons and may sometimes be required by Departmental Policy do to the type of force that was used.

Citizen was injured in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	Percent of total
No	36	73%
Yes	13	27%
Total	49	

Citizen taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	Percent of total
No	38	78%
Yes	6	22%
Total	49	

Officer injured in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	Percent of total
No	47	96%
Yes	2	4%
Total	49	

Officer taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count	Percent of total
No	49	100%
Yes	0	0%
Total	49	

Reason for Use of Force and Type of service being rendered at the time

Reason for use-of-force:

Reason	Count	Percent of total
Felony Car Stop	2	4%
To assist another agency	2	4%
To defend another person	1	2%
To defend self	8	16%
To effect arrest	23	47%
Investigative Detention	6	12%
To prevent a violent felony	1	2%
To restrain for subjects safety	3	6%
Transport Prisoner	3	2%
Total	49	

Type of service being rendered at time of use-of-force:

Service type	Count	Percent of total
Call for Service	6	12%
Criminal Investigation	8	16%
Disturbance	9	18%
Felony Car Stop	6	12%
Foot Pursuit	2	4%
Mental	8	16%
Pedestrian Check	3	6%
Prisoner Transport	1	2%
Traffic Stop	2	4%
Warrant Service	4	8%
Total	49	

Detention Officer Use of force

During the end of 2012, the Joplin Police Department began to track Police Officer use of force stats separate from Detention Officer use of force stats. This was in an effort to give the most practical data for officers working in a street environment vs. inside a correctional facility. Detention Officer stats no longer reflect such data such as; Officer use of force vs. arrest, Officer use of force vs. use of force rate, Taser deployments vs. arrest, reason force was used, and type of service being rendered. This data will be documents separately in order to give the most accurate number.

In the fourth quarter of 2015 Joplin Detention Officers employed some level of force 8 times to defend themselves, enforce a jail rule, or move a prisoner.

The analysis provided is based upon averages. The actual use of force by individual detention officers can be influenced by a number of factors such as assignment, shift, number of hours worked and other variables.

The following statistics are a comprehensive breakdown of individual use of force events. As such, they are representative of the dynamic and fluid nature of such events wherein a single use of force event is comprised of phases of escalation and de-escalation. A number of levels of force and methods of force are utilized to bring about a successful resolution to the event. The following numbers reflect the multiple efforts in use of force events and do not represent a change in the total use of force events listed above.

Detention Use of Force Continued

Profile of Jail Use-of-force Incidents received Between October 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015

Total number of use-of-force incidents:	8
Total number of officers involved:	12

<u>Type of Force</u>	<u>Total #</u>
Control Hold	1
Open-hand Strike	2
Physical restraint	1
Strikes	1
Take to ground	1
Taser	2

Citizen resistance tally:

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Count</u>
Active Aggression	1
Active Resistance	4
Non-Compliance	5
Self Harm	1
Showed great strength	2
Total	13

Injuries (Detention Officers)

Citizen was injured in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count
No	6
Yes	2
Total	8

Citizen taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count
No	8
Yes	0
Total	8

Officer injured in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count
No	8
Yes	0
Total	8

Officer taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force (# incidents):

	Count
No	8
Yes	0
Total	8

Internal Affairs Report

During the fourth quarter of 2015, there have been 3 Citizen Complaints forwarded to the Office of Internal Affairs for investigation. There have been 3 Internal Investigations forwarded to the Office of Internal Affairs for investigation. There were 6 cases that involved sworn personnel.

The 6 cases involving department personnel are broke down by month and graphs are completed to give an indication of how many complaints have been investigated, where the complaints were generated from, how many have been sustained and what types of disciplinary actions have been handed out for those violations.

During the fourth quarter of 2015 there were approximately 112 sworn officers and 13 civilian positions in the police department. There are currently 18 jail employees and 16 dispatch employees. This makes the total number of employees that fall under the Police Department 159 .

The main purpose of this information is to get as much factual information as possible out to the members of the Department to avoid unnecessary rumors, which have a negative effect on the Department. The Office of Internal Affairs understands and respects each individual employee's right to confidentiality and will uphold that standard. However, it is important that generic information be shared Department wide to provide expectations and equality for every employee. With this in mind, the Office of Internal Affairs will assure you that each complaint will be investigated in accordance with department policy and as expeditiously as possible.

As illustrated in SOG 2-08, Internal Affairs, I have listed the disposition classifications of internal investigations for your convenience. Disposition classifications are as follows:

1. Unfounded - no truth to allegations.
2. Exonerated - allegations true, but result of adherence to proper and appropriate procedures and techniques.
3. Not sustained - unable to verify the truth of the matters under investigation.
4. Sustained - allegations true.
5. Policy Failure - The allegation is true, but employee's action was not inconsistent with policy and there is an indication of a need for policy review and revision.
6. Withdrawn – Complainant withdraws their complaint.
7. Inactivated – There is not enough information to conduct an investigation and no way of obtaining more information. The case may have to be inactivated until more information is available.

Complaints Received

The following is a breakdown of all complaints received by Internal Affairs for the fourth quarter of 2015.

- 3 complaints were generated by citizens
- 3 complaints were generated within the agency
- 1 complaint were sustained
- 5 complaints resulted in findings that were other than sustained
- JPD received an average of 1 citizen complaints per month
- JPD generated an average of investigations 1 per month from within the agency

During the fourth quarter of 2015 the Joplin Police Department received 20,765 calls for service. Included in this figure is 4,187 vehicle stops. JPD officers also made 1,693 arrests resulting in 3,772 total charges

During the fourth quarter of 2014 the Joplin Police Department received 21,988 calls for service. Included in this figure is 6,585 vehicle stops. JPD officers also made 1,900 arrests resulting in 3,684 charges.

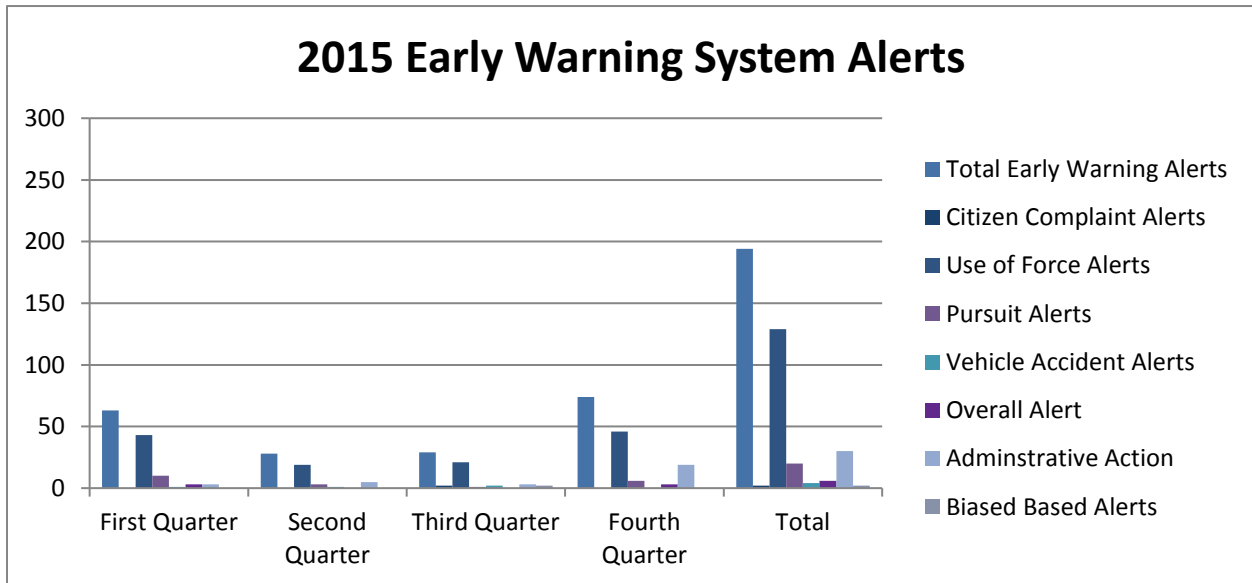
During the fourth quarter of 2013 the Joplin Police Department received 21,546 calls for service. Included in this figure is 7,235 vehicle stops. JPD officers also made 2,137 arrests resulting in 4,275 charges.

“Agencies that set the highest standards and consistently enforce them are agencies with the highest morale among their employee’s.”

Randy Means

Early Warning System

In addition, a comprehensive Personnel Early Warning System is an essential component of a well-managed law enforcement agency. The Joplin Police Department is committed to this concept and I have implemented threshold limits into our Internal Affairs software (IA Pro) to manage this process. As a result of threshold limits recommended by the officers of the department and set by the Chief of Police, officers activities will be reviewed (by their immediate supervisor) when threshold limits are met. The threshold limits have been set as follows, to cover a twelve (12) month period; Citizen Complaints = 3, Use of Force = 12, Pursuits = 4, Bias Based Profiling = 1, and Vehicle Accidents = 2. The purpose of the Personnel Early Warning System shall be a means to identify and assess employees' performance in high-risk incidents and intervene where appropriate.



Investigations (Monthly Breakdown)

October 2015

1 Investigations (No internal complaints received)

<u>Complaint Type</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>Investigator</u>
1. Policy Violation	Unfounded	IA

November 2015

3 Investigations (2 internal complaints received)

<u>Complaint Type</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>Investigator</u>
1. Inefficient Performance of Duties	Inactivated/Resigned	IA
2. Conduct Unbecoming	Inactivated/Resigned	IA
3. Rudeness	Inactivated	Patrol/IA

December 2015

2 Investigations (1 internal complaints received)

<u>Complaint Type</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>Investigator</u>
1. Conduct Unbecoming/Untruthfulness	Sustained/Resigned	IA
2. Rudeness	Unfounded	IA

*****It should be noted that there may be more complaint types and investigations than actual complaints received. This is a result of multiple employees being investigated for one complaint form.**

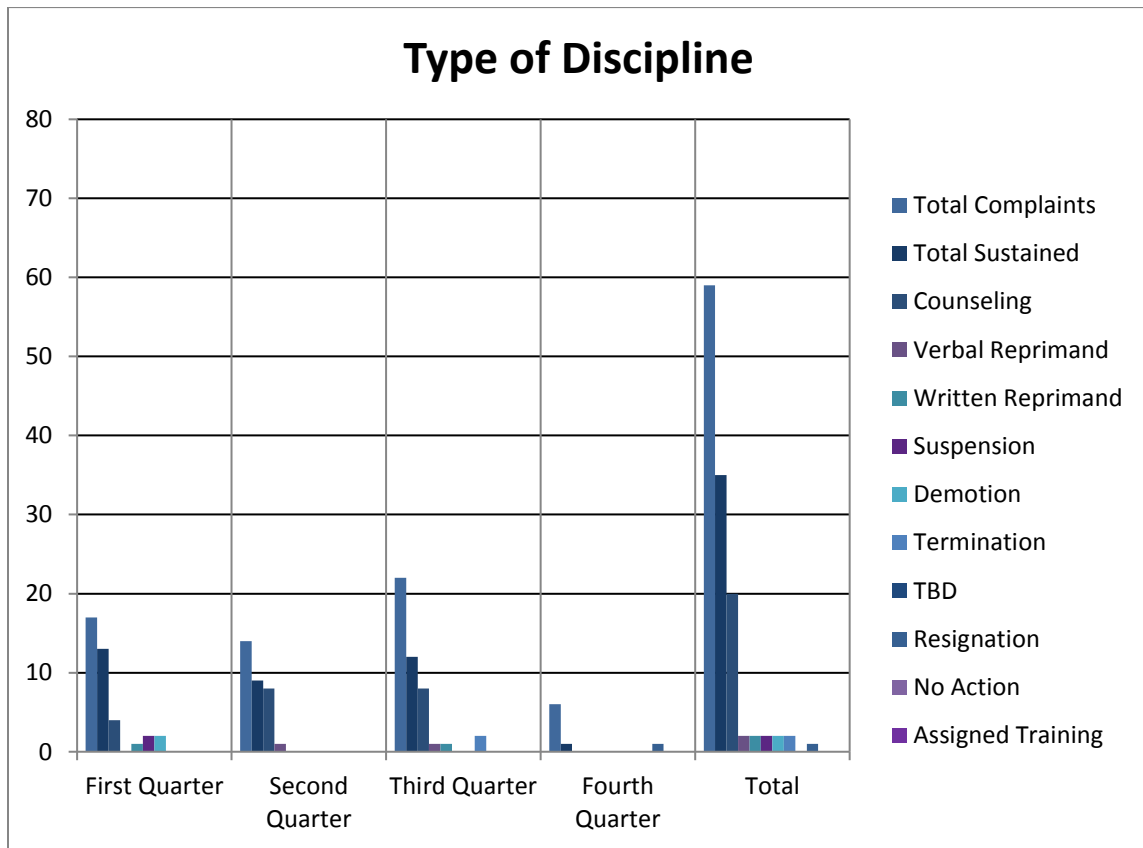
Types of Discipline

Fourth Quarter Discipline

Violation

Discipline

No discipline for this quarter due to employee resigning.



***If you see a disciplinary action that does not seem to fit the violation, keep in mind that it may be due to the severity of the case or it could be a progressive level of discipline.**

Accidents and Pursuit Policy

In case of accident or damage to any department vehicle the driver will immediately request the on-duty supervisor be notified. The supervisor will have an investigation made. An Accident/Pursuit Review Board will then review all accidents/pursuits involving Police Department employees and vehicles.

The Accident/Pursuit Review Board- the body responsible for reviewing completed officer involved accident and pursuit reports. The Accident/Pursuit Review Board will review each report to ensure compliance with department policy and forward their findings to the Office of Internal Affairs. The Office of Internal Affairs, or his/her designee, will review the Accident/Pursuit Boards findings and initiate an investigation if appropriate. The Accident/Pursuit Review Board is a panel of three officers consisting of the Traffic Sergeant and two designees.

For tracking purposes accidents in a city vehicle and pursuits are separated from internal and citizen complaints and are categorized in the following manner.

Accidents

For the fourth quarter of 2015 there were 4 officer involved accidents in a city vehicle. Of those accidents 2 of the officers were determined by the Accident Review Board to be at fault.

Fourth Quarter Accident Discipline

Violation

Accident City Vehicle
Accident City Vehicle

Discipline

Counseling
Counseling

Pursuits

For the fourth quarter of 2015 there were 7 officer involved pursuits. Five out of the seven are pending review. Two of them have been reviewed by the Pursuit Review Board and found do be within policy.

***If you see a disciplinary action that does not seem to fit the violation, keep in mind that it may be due to the severity of the case or it could be a progressive level of discipline.**

Awards and Commendations

Beginning April 2014 the Office of Internal Affairs began managing the awards for the department. This includes monthly and quarterly and yearly awards (Officer of the Month, Dispatcher of the Quarter, Detention Officer of the Year, Grand Cordons, Letters of Excellence etc.) as well as commendations submitted by the general public.

During the fourth quarter 2015, awards and commendations were received from citizens and from within the department.

Officer of the Month

October 2015 Officer Aaron Gooch

November 2015 Officer Damon Farrow

December 2015 Officer Rusty Comer

Detention Officer of the Quarter
4th Quarter 2015 (no nominations were received)

Dispatcher of the Quarter
4th Quarter 2015 (no nominations were received)