



Wausau Police Department

Robert B. Mielke
Mayor

Benjamin K. Bliven
Chief of Police

WAUSAU POLICE DEPARTMENT – 2019 USE OF FORCE REPORT

The Wausau Police Department has designated for reporting, any use of force by personnel involving physical actions beyond compliant handcuffing. Reporting also includes the direction or display of any weapon toward a person regardless of whether the weapon is actually used. For the purposes of this report, an event is categorized as each occasion that reportable force is used against a single unit. This is usually an individual or an animal; however, if a weapon is directed toward a group (such as during a high risk traffic stop or related search warrant) it is reported as one event. In some circumstances there may be more than one event involving reportable use of force during the same incident. Further, in some events more than one force option was used to control the individual and/or threat.

There were a total of 257 reported events from January 1 through December 31, 2019, in which Wausau Police Department personnel used reportable force based on the described criteria. In comparison there were 260 in 2018 and 268 in 2017. Specific methods used were:

- 59 escort holds
- 111 compliance holds
- 3 oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray uses
- 5 conducted electronic weapon (TASER) uses
- 59 decentralizations, including both horizontal and vertical stuns
- 3 strike uses, including either empty hand and/or knee applications
- 0 diffused (incapacitating) strike use
- 0 baton uses against people
- 15 firearm discharges; all at animals (all non-domestic animals)
- 15 miscellaneous uses, including (3) mandibular angle, (1) sternum rub, (6) waist restraint/transport belt, (3) spit hood, (3) padded helmet, and (1) K9 deployment (no bite)

Compliance holds were the most frequent method required for officers to use. Compliance holds included any occasion in which officer(s) had to forcibly control a person's arms or movement and does not include countermeasures or use of weapons.

In addition to OC spray being used during 3 incidents, it was displayed twice (2) but not used.

In addition to TASERs being used during 5 incidents, there were 39 instances where TASERs were displayed at person(s), but not applied. In comparison there were 25 instances in 2018 and 25 in 2017.

The total deployments of firearms in 2019 was 98 (15 of the 98 were discharges at animals). Firearms were directed, but were not fired, at persons in 83 incidents during high risk traffic stops, search warrant executions, armed subjects, and other situations where the subjects were perceived to



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possibly be armed or a deadly threat. This is a slight increase (13.95%) from 2018 (see below paragraph).

The total deployment of firearms in 2018 was 86 (11 of the 86 were discharges at animals). Firearms were directed, but were not fired, at persons in 75 incidents during high risk traffic stops, search warrant executions, armed subjects, and other situations where the subjects were perceived to possibly be armed or a deadly force threat.

Each incident was reviewed by supervisors and/or me to assess conduct as being in accordance with department directives and Wisconsin Department of Justice Training and Standards guidelines. Results may also be used to help identify any departmental training and/or equipment needs.

More detailed information is available on the Use of Force log, downloaded Taser data, incident reports and officers' use of force reports. (The latter are submitted when force is reportable but no incident report is completed, such as firearms use for euthanizing injured animals.)

Lt. John Phillips

June 8th, 2020

| Use of Force by Race | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | |
| Asian | 10 | 2 | 12 | 5.06% |
| Black | 34 | 5 | 39 | 16.46% |
| Native American | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1.69% |
| White | 127 | 45 | 172 | 72.57% |
| Total | 173 | 54 | 237 | 100.00% |

20 remaining uses of force were on animals (Mostly wounded deer)