

Benson Police Department



2005
Annual Report

February 28, 2006

Rob Wolfington, City Manager
City of Benson

Re: 2004 Annual Report

Dear Rob,

This report contains a detailed overview of the Benson Police Department's activity for the year 2005. Included in the report are statistics related to the department's calls for service and total offenses charged. You will also find breakdowns of what types of calls officers responded to and what types of charges were filed against criminals and/or violators.

I may also give my opinion on why the department is seeing increases in particular areas of interest and decreases in others. This report is not an all- inclusive document, but rather a synopsis of events occurring in 2005 along with explanations/opinions on why we are seeing these trends. Attached to this report will be an all - inclusive list of statistics without any explanations of trends.

I hope you enjoy the reading and if you or anyone else should have any questions regarding this document they should feel free to call or see me. I do plan to present this at the next city council meeting and ask that you have this item put on the agenda for discussion. Thank you for your support in 2005!

Respectfully,

James M. Crace
Chief of Police

1. Traffic Accidents
In 2001 we had 119 *Accident Calls* reported. In the years since 2001 we have seen an average of 98 per year with 2005 recording 96. Aggressive enforcement of speed and inattentive driving laws can be attributed to the decrease in accidents since 2001. The department has taken an active role in the Minnesota Safe and Sober Program for the past 5 years.
2. Burglaries
We experienced a sharp increase in *Burglary* incidents in 2004; however the incidents leveled back off in 2005 with 14 reports.
3. Disturbance Calls
Our calls for *Disturbances* have decreased dramatically, down from 242 complaints in 2004 to 176 in 2005. The average calls for disturbances over the prior four years were 258.
4. Narcotics
We saw a major increase in *Drug Related Calls* in 2005. In 2004, we answered 9 Drug Related Calls and it increased to 28 in 2005. We answered these calls with aggressive investigation and enforcement. I assigned an officer to work directly with the CEE VI Drug Task Force to combat these problems. Our efforts resulted in 21 narcotics arrests in 2005.
5. Domestic
We are continuing to answer numerous *Domestic Assault Calls* and *Domestic Disturbances* calls every month. We investigated 15 Domestic Assaults and 11 Domestic Disturbances in 2005). The department continues to work closely with Swift County Human Services and Victim's Advocates in these cases. 16 suspects were successfully charged on the 15 Domestic Assault cases in 2005.
6. Traffic Offenses
Our calls for *Traffic Offenses* have leveled off at 150 calls in 2005. Over the four years prior, the average was 145 calls. As noted above, we have focused more on traffic safety in recent years.
7. DUI
Over the past two years, we have seen a sizable increase in *DUI* arrests from 10 arrests in 2002 to 22 arrests in 2005. We also charged 4 individuals with *underage drinking and driving* in 2005. Note: There were 4 motor vehicles forfeited in DUI cases in the year 2005.
8. Suicide / Suicide Attempts
The department responded to 6 *Suicide / Suicide Attempt* calls in the city limits in 2005. In addition to these incidents, officers assisted the Swift County Sheriff's Office with numerous suicides and attempts. The exposure of our officers to these incidents is always a concern to leadership staff.

9. Total Charges Our total of number of charges has increased from 413 charges in 2001 to 569 in 2005. We experienced a spike in charges in 2003 with 696 total charges when we had 7 Full-time officers.
10. Total Calls for Service The police department answered 2900 calls for service in 2005, which was 2% lower than the 2983 calls in 2004.

Community Involvement

The Police Department continues to be very involved with the community. We are currently involved in a number of Community Policing Projects to include: Senior Citizen Assistance Program, Child Seat Program, School Resource Officer Program, DARE Program, Bike Rodeo, Driver’s Education and the Crosswalk Safety Campaign and Safe & Sober. We serve on the following organizations: CEE VI Drug Task Force, the Swift County Child Protection Team, the Swift County Adult Protection Team, Minnesota Chief’s of Police Executive Board and the City of Benson Safety Committee.

Training

We take training very seriously and make it a priority to have our officers trained to the highest level possible while staying within budget constraints. Officers attended the following course in 2005:

- Kinesic Interview and Interrogation
- Report Writing Refresher
- Methamphetamine Workshop
- Missing and Exploited Children
- Taser Recertification
- Firearms Qualification
- Use of Force Refresher
- First Aid Refresher
- Intoxilyzer Refresher
- Response to School Shootings
- National Incident Management System
- High Risk Traffic Stops
- Child Protection Investigations

I hope this document was informative and interesting to you. See the attached documents for a full list of statistics.

This table represents the calls for service that the Benson Police Department received and responded to. I have included the past five years for comparison.

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abandoned Bikes	13	9	11	11	15

Accidents	119	98	99	88	96
Alarms	68	48	27	40	51
Ambulance Calls	92	98	125	146	109
Animal Complaints	15	19	26	25	24
Assaults	16	22	28	23	8
Assaults/Domestic	9	10	11	13	15
Assist Other Agencies	102	161	155	108	133
Bike Thefts	12	12	11	10	6
Burglaries	13	12	10	22	14
Child Abuse/Neglect Intakes	26	22	23	11	21
Civil Matters	37	29	44	46	47
Criminal Damage/Vandalism	32	41	63	41	42
Curfew	4	10	17	5	0
Death Investigation	2	2	0	1	2
Disorderly Conduct	16	17	40	14	14
Disturbance Calls	262	272	257	242	176
Dog Complaints	178	192	162	148	156
Domestic Disturbance(not including domestic assaults)	5	6	13	17	11
Driving Complaints	81	79	117	86	76
Drug Related Calls	18	17	22	9	28
DWI (alcohol and drugs)	9	10	19	20	20
Extra Patrols	21	30	15	29	27
Fire/Assist Fire Dept	20	23	24	16	25
Flee Officer	2	1	1	1	1
Forgery and Related	6	2	3	5	11
Handgun Permits	19	24	26	26	22
Harassing Phone Calls	8	2	1	1	0
Keys Locked in Vehicle/House	220	227	245	226	191
Mental Health Calls	7	7	3	18	14
Miscellaneous	499	495	535	539	535
Missing Person/Abduction (& attempted)	7	2	2	0	3
Money Escorts	593	601	574	575	555
Motor Assists	36	29	22	31	19
Motorized Vehicle Thefts	13	4	9	8	9
Obstruct Legal Process/Crimes Against Justice	6	14	12	6	6
Open Doors/Windows	27	56	27	15	15
Presentations	40	38	46	33	22
Procure Liquor for Minor	0	0	2	2	0
Recovered Property (thefts from other jurisdictions)	2	0	0	1	3
Residence Watch	18	22	23	20	29
Runaways	5	6	4	3	6
Sex Assault and Related	4	7	6	9	8
Snowmobile/ATV Complaints	14	12	14	4	9
Solicitor Permits and complaints	3	2	6	6	3

Suicide Attempts/Suicide	5	2	4	3	6
Theft and Related	99	65	90	86	93
Traffic Offenses/City Ordinances	105	190	173	114	150
Traffic Direction	30	34	22	27	31
Transports	5	1	11	0	3
Travelers Aid	3	2	3	2	6
Trespass	1	6	1	3	3
Underage Drink and Drive	4	3	7	5	4
Underage Alcohol Consumption and Possession	10	9	19	23	9
Underage Tobacco Violations	5	10	6	3	3
Violate Protection and Harassment Orders	5	13	17	10	7
Vulnerable Adults	2	3	2	6	6
Weapons	1	1	0	1	2
TOTAL	2974	3129	3235	2983	2900

This table represents the number of charges that were filed in Swift County District Court as a result of our investigations.

	Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Assaults		17	34	35	29	11
Assaults/Domestic		9	11	14	12	16
Burglary		9	4	5	11	3
Crimes Against Justice		8	9	8	14	8
Crim Sex		0	5	2	3	5
Criminal Damage/Trespass		2	11	16	17	31
Curfew		9	23	32	10	8
Disorderly Conduct/Disturb Peace		34	29	95	49	27
Dog Citations		18	25	14	11	13
Drugs & Paraphernalia		9	15	17	15	21
**DWI (alcohol & drug)		24	19	54	48	46
Forgery		5	2	1	5	3
Juvenile Tobacco Use		15	16	10	10	9
Miscellaneous		2	2	4	5	1
Obscenity/Indecent Exposure		1	1	1	0	0
Procure Liquor for Underage		2	0	1	5	4
Snowmobile Citations		2	0	23	2	0
Theft and Related		44	39	32	59	72
Traffic Citations/Misc City Ordinances		163	269	265	212	233
Underage Alcohol Consumption & Possession		35	26	56	53	25
Violate Protection and Harassment Order		4	7	11	5	5
Weapons		1	1	0	0	28
TOTALS		413	548	696	575	569
**DWI Cases		11	10	20	21	22
-charges per case differ from year to year due to new DWI						

laws					
**Underage Drink & Drive	5	3	10	8	4