

**Police Committee Meeting  
On February 13, 2024  
At 4:30 pm  
At City Hall**

**Present: Monte Talkington, Bob Somervold, Clark Sowers, Larry Schmaltz (by phone), Randy Schmidt, Jason Lafayette, Ryan Cherveney, Clint Haffner, Mardi Reeves**

**For the record and for those of you in the audience, we have just convened a meeting of the Police Committee for the City of Belle Fourche. Today's date is February 13, 2024. Anyone who wishes to address the Committee should request acknowledgement through the Chairman.**

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Motion Somervold, Second C. Sowers to adopt the agenda at 4:30 pm. Motion carried.
3. Public Discussion items: Kevin Wagner with McGough Contracting- Introduction of company and inquiry on bidding process for new building.
4. Chief's Report
  - YTD Blotter- (see attached)
  - Traffic is currently #1 complaint regardless of heavy patrolling. Would like to consider adding 2 positions in 2025 that are strictly traffic officers. According to national and FBI statistics a police department should have 2.6 to 3.4 officers per 1,000 civilians. This puts our department 2-4 officers understaffed according to statistics.
  - Chief Cherveney addressed an email complaint from Justin Vice regarding patrol vehicles and uniforms.
  - Vehicle updates: Vehicle from Kansas City arrived last week. Another patrol vehicle was involved in a car vs deer accident over the weekend and has approximately \$5k in damages.
5. Code Enforcement Report:
  - Please see attached report from Code Enforcement Officer Clint Haffner.
6. Acknowledgement that the Butte County Sheriff's Office has submitted a letter of intent to proceed with the architectural planning portion of the new Police Department Building.
7. Discussion Police Department building planning.
  - Surveying and geotechnical reports should be available in upcoming weeks. No ground or soil issues have been found.
8. Discussion on School Resource Officer contract.
  - BF School District grant funding for the SRO position will be ending this school year and the school district is currently facing a wage shortage due to increased salaries. The district also has the highest number of home-schooled children to date

which depletes additional funding to schools. The school will be looking at the COPS Office grant to fund SRO.

- The city will continue to pay SRO wages as this position has had a huge impact on the schools and has been proven necessary.
9. Recommendation to remove all unenforceable signage within the City of Belle Fourche.  
Tabled- Will investigate more the legality of the signs on private property before continuing.
  10. Informational- none
  11. Motion Somervold, C. Sowers to adjourn the meeting at 5:25pm. Motion carried.

SEE ATTCHED REPORTS:



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# *City Of Belle Fourche Police Department*

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## **BFPD February 2024 Blotter**

**As of February 13, 2024, this the Belle Fourche Police Department has responded to 1,245 Calls for Service and generated 76 Case Reports.**

- 44- Crimes against people calls: assaults, sexual assaults
- 9- Crimes against property: trespassing, vandalism
- 26- Welfare checks/Mental Health Related Calls
- 365- Traffic stops/Complaints
- 22- Vehicle Crashes
- 5- DUI
- 54-Citations
- 22-Arrests

### **School Resource Officer**

32-calls for service

### **Code Enforcement**

154- calls for service

**Comparison: 2023 ended with 11,628 Calls for Service**

**Note:** The police blotter is updated monthly and is calls for service reported by police. Calls for service are assignments given to law enforcement and first responders that require law enforcement presence, correction, and/or assistance in a particular situation.

## Code Enforcement Report:

Clint advised dump cards can be picked up at city hall if you have an active water account with the city.

Clint advised he is waiting to hear back from attorneys regarding 903 Edmunds.

Clint advised he started in December on 5<sup>th</sup> avenue city lot and it appears it has decreased the # of deer being hit and made area safer for drivers. Difficult to clear brush, and brush must be weedeated first and then mowed.

Clint advised letters have been sent to trailer court owners a couple of weeks ago—typically each year in January and February these letters go out along with other rental properties.

Clint advised after a long winter it is important to check fences and gates from damage from wind and snow to limit animal at large calls. 1<sup>st</sup> time is a warning and 2<sup>nd</sup> time is a citation.

12 tickets in 2023-takes very little time and most contacts result in animal education.

The rabies clinic is May 11 from 8 am to 12am at the Belle Fourche Vet Clinic—cost is \$7.00. Please have dogs on a leash and cats in a carrier. Pet owners need to make sure dogs and cats are up to date whether they get it thru the rabies clinic or thru the vet.

Clint advised snow removal abatements that a before and after pic is sent—and also advised snow removal ordinance has been advertised for years.

Calls for service—154

Clint advised he was having good discussion with a coworker last week and regarding helping other departments—and realized with the different things he is involved in that any help would be appreciated from volunteers.

## Volunteer Opportunities:

*April*—Pick up garbage (need lots of volunteers) and mark bike path (10 hours commitment)

Finish Charlottes. (4 hours)

*May*—PTO-Don't thump your Melon—School (fitting helmets) (3 to 4 hours commitment)

Breakfast with Buddies at School (1 hour)

Need foster for kitties— (all day)

*Memorial Weekend*—Putting up Flags at Cemetery—6am-Need many people to put at 6am and take the flags down in the afternoon-return poles and re-pack flags. (All day)

*June*-Paint a house (large project) (2 day commitment)

*July*—Fireworks on Jackson—need volunteers-I just don't have time for it. (10-to-15-hour commitment)

Pick up garbage again after—4<sup>th</sup> of July and fireworks makes a mess and litter. (10-hour commitment)

*September*—United Way project #1(big project) (1 day commitment)

United Way project #2(big project) (1 day commitment)

*November*—Collection for food pantry

Delivering trees after festival of trees-need trucks and trailers. (4 hour commitment)

*December*—kids n cops and donations for animals

There is always other projects that come along and these are all subject to change due to the weather.