

INTERNATIONAL FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 Annual Report

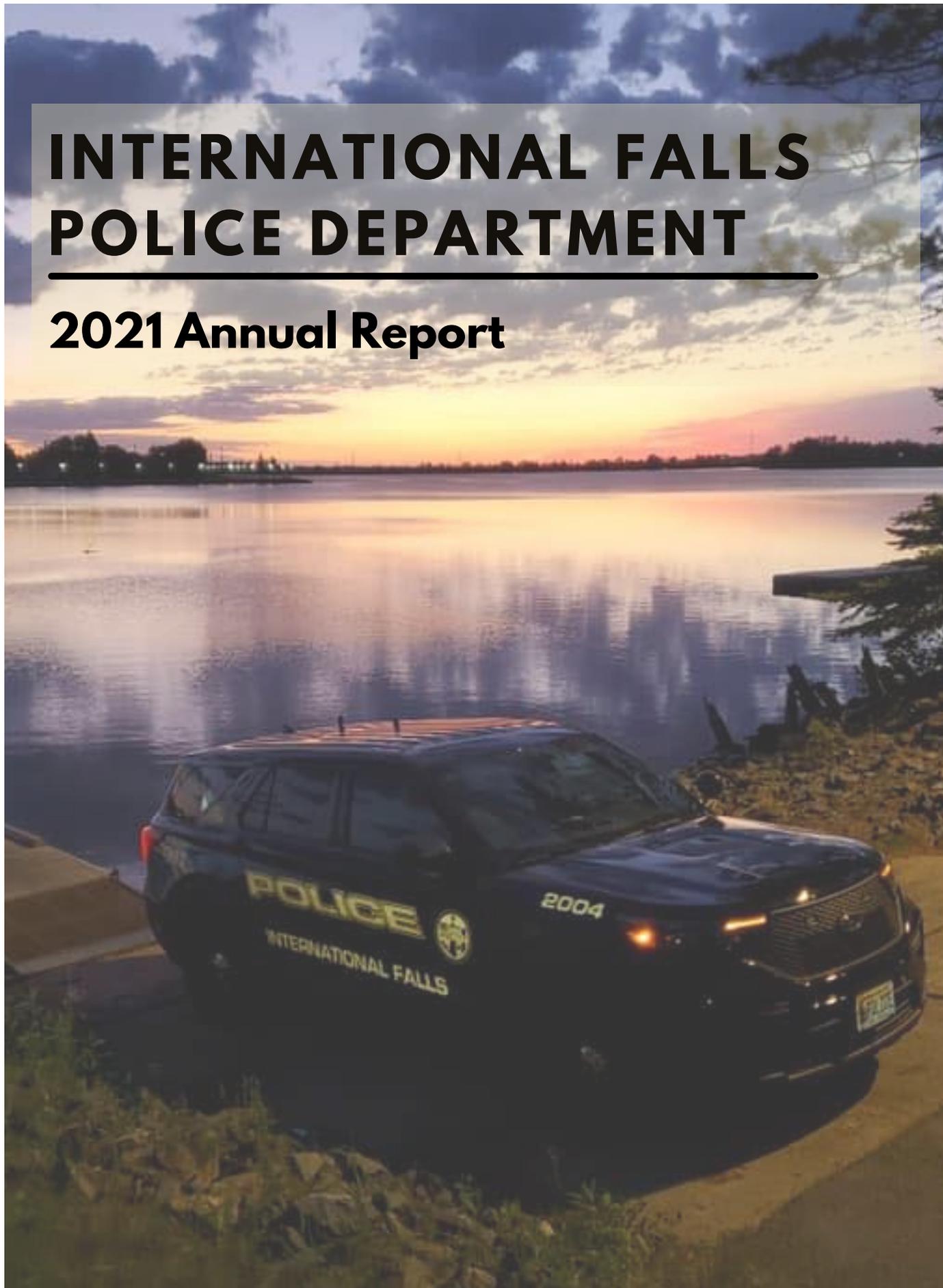


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Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I am pleased to submit the 2021 International Falls Police Department Annual Report to you and residents of International Falls. This report contains a summary of the events and operations the Police Department undertook in 2021.

2021 was a year full of challenges as both the continuing pandemic and personnel changes impacted the department's operations. I am proud to report that our department rose to these challenges with no impact on our public safety goals. This year ushered in a new administration as well as many new officers. Staff changes occurred at every level of the department. You can expect to see momentum in new areas of our department to continue to increase and evolve as a result.

I hope this report gives you a clearer understanding of the importance of our department and the direction we are heading. We believe the future of policing lies in reaching public safety goals by utilizing both traditional and non-traditional policing. The IFPD will continue to place importance on public safety, community policing, and proactive police work while also ensuring our resources are allocated in the most responsible means.

Please note this report provides a brief snapshot of the International Falls Police Department's activities for 2021. I would encourage all who are interested to speak with me further with any questions or suggestions.

Chief Michael Kostiuk



Mission Statement

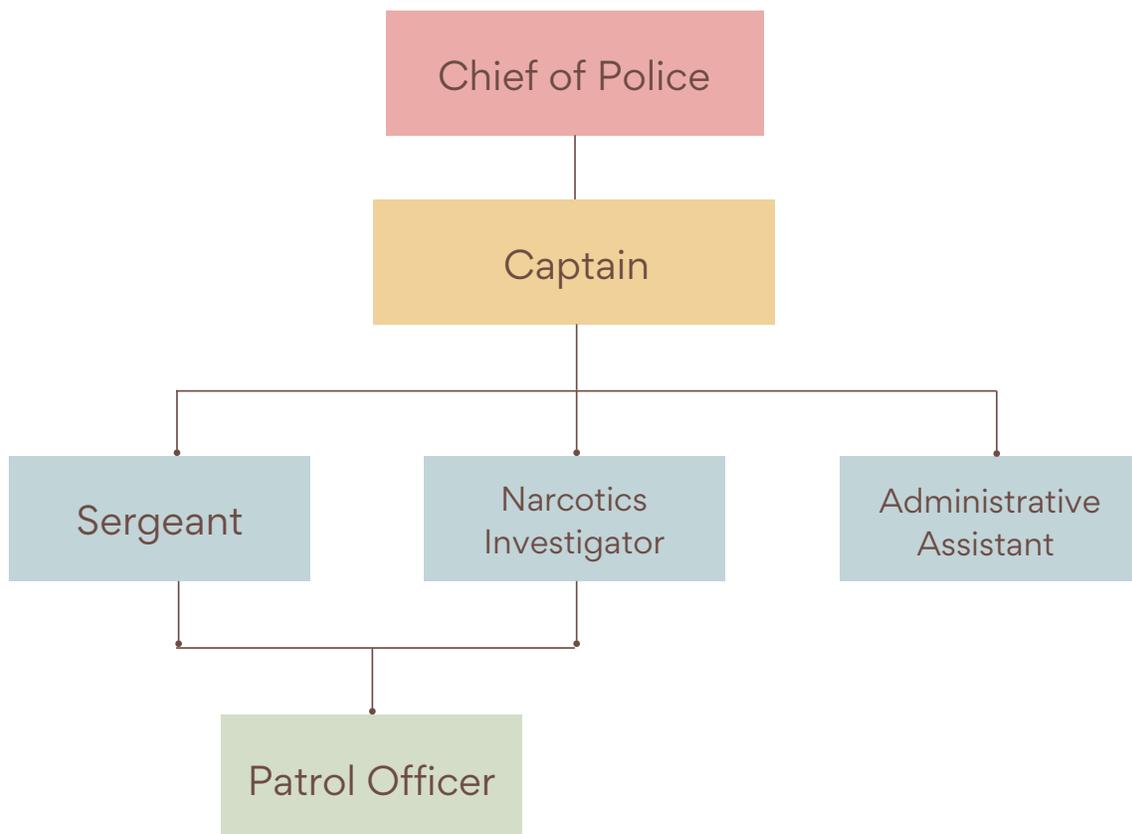
The mission of the International Falls Police Department is to protect and serve the community of International Falls with fairness, compassion, and empathy. Our public service model is designed to increase public safety, citizen confidence, and citizen satisfaction through proactive policing and strong community relationships.

Core Values

- **Accountability**- We realize the responsibility instituted in the positions we have as law enforcement officers in the community. We also realize that there is an expectation that officers are trustworthy, dependable, and fair in dealing with all individuals and circumstances.
- **Integrity**- Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Officers will carry out their duties with integrity in a transparent manner.
- **Stewardship**- Though our service in these positions may be temporary, we have a responsibility to maintain the honor and dignity of them. We will be committed to leaving all situations better than we have found them.
- **Excellence**- We will perform our duties to the best of our ability while also helping others realize their potential.



International Falls Police Department Organizational Chart



Staffing

The International Falls Police Department is staffed by twelve full-time licensed police officers, three dedicated part-time licensed police officers, and one part-time administrative assistant. Our street level operations are staffed with a Sergeant and up to two Patrol Officers. In addition to their standard duties, IFPD Officers fulfill other roles to achieve our mission and goals. For your reference I have given an abbreviated listing of additional duties outlined below. A key goal of this administration is the creation of lines of succession. You will note duties mirrored at various command levels. It is important that all levels of this department contribute to the mission and goals, and provide alternative input not normally observed.

Administration

Chief Michael Kostiuk- Public relations; Community policing coordinator; Officer Wellness Coordinator.

Captain Mitchell Lessard- Social media coordinator; Firearms Coordinator

Administrative Assistant Heather Olson- Records Management; Evidence Technician

Investigations

Sergeant Joshua Mastin- Narcotics Investigations; Paul Bunyan Task Force Member

Patrol Functions

Sergeant Dane Olson- Juvenile Officer

Sergeant Justin Franz- Firearms Instructor; ALICE Instructor.

Sergeant Paul Kennedy- Field Training Supervisor; Department Weapons Officer.

Sergeant Scott Wherley- Field Training Supervisor

Patrol Officer Griffin Offerdahl- Field Training Officer; Social Media Officer

Patrol Officer Bryan Franko- Equipment Officer; Assistant Firearms Instructor

Patrol Officer Anthony Kastens- Equipment Officer; School Gun Safety Liaison

Patrol Officer Logan Hulst- Field Training Officer; Community Policing Officer

Patrol Officer Ryan Stenson- Community Policing Officer

Patrol Officer (Part-Time) Joshua Ballejo

Patrol Officer (Part-Time) Shane Thramer

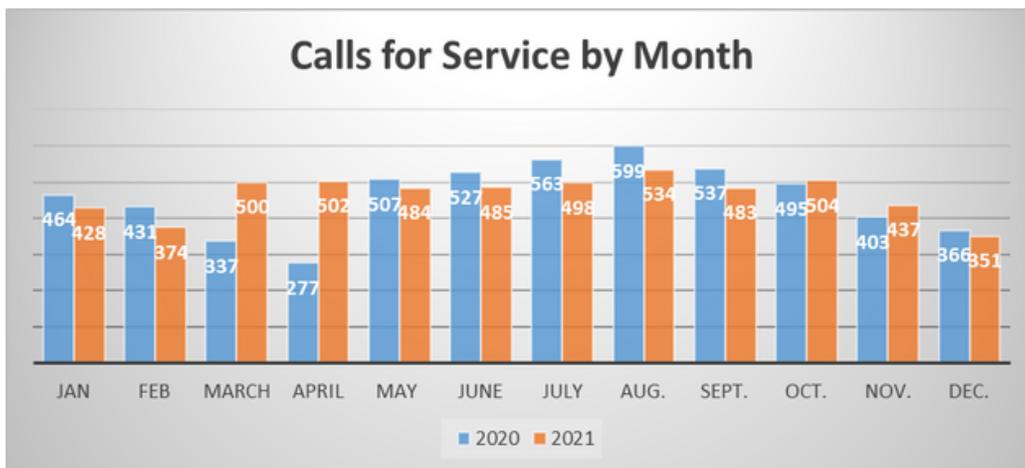
Patrol Officer (Part-Time) Carter Lagergren



2021 Statistics & Noteworthy Incidents

We responded to 5580 Calls for Service (CFS), 1046 of which required reports. Officers made 1561 traffic stops and issued 539 citations. A comprehensive graphing of the statistical data is available in the appendix at the end of this report. Officers were involved in five traffic pursuits and initiated four of these. The police department received two citizen-initiated complaints against officers.

- July: Officers, along with the Koochiching County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota State Patrol, received information from The U.S. Marshal's Office that an armed and dangerous individual was possibly in our area. The suspect was located near Sha-Sha. After attempts to negotiate the suspect fired a single shot, ending his life. No officers or civilians were harmed in the incident.
- August: After a lengthy standoff officers were able to successfully negotiate with a barricaded suspect who had assaulted another individual with a machete. The suspect turned himself over to police.
- October: Officers were called to a mental health crisis involving an individual who had thrown themselves into the river. Officers, with the assistance of a private citizen, were able to bring the individual to safety for medical evaluation.
- October: A routine traffic stop evolved into a complex criminal investigation in which an individual was charged with criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping through the proactive work of officers.



Case Reports by Month



Arrests Made by Month



Traffic Stops by Month



Citations Issued by Month



Community Policing Initiative

One of the primary areas of focus for the IFPD has become community policing. We have adopted the ideology that every interaction is an opportunity to increase our ties with the citizens of International Falls. Rather than sporadic events throughout the year, there is an expectation that the precept of community policing will inspire our policing model. I have included some noteworthy events that have occurred throughout the year for your review.

Officers assisted the Falls Education Foundation in providing meals to community members.



In August the IFPD hosted the annual National Night Out event. I am happy to report that the citizen turnout for this was comparable to pre-pandemic levels.



At the annual Bass Tournament an IFPD officer volunteered with the youth wrestling program to showcase their program.



September marked our return to the schools to teach the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety program.



In October officers attended the annual Treat Street event and handed out candy. In addition, officers conducted foot patrol through neighborhoods and handed out candy on Halloween.



The IFPD was honored to be a part of the annual Best Christmas Ever. Officers helped wrap presents and escort the participants to the family's home.



Narcotics Investigations

The IFPD recognizes the impact drugs can have on our community. They are frequently the root causes of many crimes in cities. In 2018 we entered into a partnership with the Paul Bunyan Task Force and assigned an officer to combat this issue. This has allowed us to trace drug activity to outside jurisdictions and assist other agencies. As a result, we have prevented many narcotics from coming to the area. As we consider the correlation between crimes and drugs, the need for drug interdiction is obvious.

Paul Bunyan Task Force Statistics

Activity	2020	2021	Seized Drugs	2020	2021
Active Investigations	562	542	Cocaine (grams)	16	87
# of New Investigations	411	301	Crack (grams)	2	23
Consent Searches	22	9	GHB/GBL	2155	0
Search Warrants	152	101	MJ Concentrate	0	0
Drug Arrests	140	125	Heroin (grams)	480	72
Non-Drug Arrests/Warrants	102	55	Fentanyl	426	828
			Khat	0	0
Assist other Agency	137	65	LSD (doses)	185	83
Other Task Forces	2	2	Marijuana (grams)	12222	4740
Other county/municipality	120	57	Marijuana (plants)	139	0
BCA or State Patrol	9	1	Maijuana (edibles)	10348	26537
Federal Agency	7	5	Marijuana (wax)	131	561
			MDMA (ecstasy)	3	173
Arrests by Charge	2020	2021	Methamphetamine (grams)	8441	11696
1st sales	17	22	Morphine (doses)	0	0
1st possession	22	11	Mushrooms	0	338
2nd sales	2	4	Opium	0	0
2nd possession	8	4	PCP	0	0
3rd sales	9	12	Prescription	2472	3427
3rd possession	7	10	Synthetic (cathinone)		0
4th sales	1	0	Synthetic (cannabinoid)		0
4th possession	2	0	Synthetic (narcotic)		0
5th sales	1	0	Suboxone (doses)	2	47
5th possession	70	62	Other/Unknown/THC carts	37	213
Manufacture	0	0			
Federal	18	4	Seized Weapons	62	51
Non-felony	1	0			
Total Arrests	158	129			

~ add 1736 grams edible mushrooms

~ 1,362 pills seized includes 965 fentanyl pills



Officer Wellness Initiative

The Officer Wellness Initiative is a tri-level approach to overall wellness. The program will utilize a multi-faceted approach to officer well-being. We have taken the first steps in this program. In September 2021 an IFPD storage garage was chosen as the site of our new fitness center. Officers began the renovation shortly after, with the site completion estimated at May 2022. Funding for the project was made possible through our forfeiture funds. These funds, gained through drug seizures and other proactive activities, will provide officers with an environment in which they can become healthier.

Groundwork was also laid in the chaplain program. This program will offer our employees access to a non-denominational local chaplain twenty-four hours a day. This will provide additional help and bolster our existing workplace wellness Employee Assistance Plan (EAP).

