

Memorandum
City of Lawrence
Police Department

To: Rich Lockhart, Police Chief
Anthony Brixius, Police Deputy Chief
Casey Cooper, Police Major

From: Shannon Riggs, Police Lieutenant

Date: January 25, 2023

Re: 2022 Annual Use of Force Report

Discussion

In accordance with the department's Use of Force policy, twenty-six (26) Use of Force Reports were submitted to the Use of Force Review Board between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022. The review board objectively reviewed the circumstances of these incidents to ensure the involved officers used their authority appropriately and consistent with training and policy (Policy 301: Use of Force Review Board).

It should be noted that a Use of Force report must be individually submitted for each decision to employ a reportable use of force option. For instance, an officer could potentially transition to different reportable methods during one incident, to gain control of a resistant or combative individual. Additionally, if more than one officer utilizes a reportable technique or tool during a single arrest incident, each officer must submit a Use of Force Report for each decision leading to the reportable use of force. This commonly leads to multiple Use of Force reports generated during a single incident. For clarification purposes, the twenty-six (26) reviewed reports stemmed from fifteen (15) arrest and control situations.

Policy

There were no significant Use of Force related policy changes during the year 2022.

Training

The department routinely provides training related to use of force accompanied by policy review and training in strategies to decrease the intensity of situations, reduce the need for force, increase voluntary compliance, and sound decision-making (de-escalation). Not including recruits receiving basic training, the average training time for sworn department members during 2022 was approximately 16 hours for topics related to use of force and de-escalation.

There were no significant trends or training issues found by the Use of Force Review Board when reviewing the 2022 reported incidents. Post-review feedback and individual training sessions often occur with involved officers who are provided the opportunity to debrief, critically discuss options and practice specific techniques with department instructors.

Conclusion

In 2022, the Lawrence Police Department logged 73,805 calls, which includes officer-initiated activity and citizens' request for police services. Of the 73,805 calls, fifteen (15) encounters resulted in twenty-six (26) reportable use of force reports. The Use of Force Review Board reviewed all twenty-six (26) reports and found in each case, officers' responses to resistance were reasonable and within department policy. It should be noted that none of the reviewed incidents were related to complaints made by involved persons. Each incident was triggered by internal safeguards dictated by department policy.

Respectfully,



Shannon Riggs
Lieutenant
Use of Force Review Board Chair

attachment:
2022 UOF Incident Summary Report