

Memorandum
City of Lawrence
Police Department

To: Rich Lockhart, Police Chief
Casey Cooper, Police Major
From: Shannon Riggs, Police Lieutenant
Date: February 3, 2022
Re: 2021 Annual Use of Force Report

Discussion

In accordance with the department's Use of Force policy, twenty-one (21) Use of Force Reports were submitted to the Use of Force Review Board between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. 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, in order 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-one (21) reviewed reports, were generated due to fourteen (14) arrest and control situations.

Policy

In the beginning of 2021, the Lawrence Police Department implemented IAPro/BlueTeam software to aid in monitoring, developing, and tracking employee performance. Use of Force reporting is included with this software. The transition led to minor changes in reporting requirements, which prompted updated policy language to guide users in the proper reporting and workflow requirements of the system.

Two (2) substantive changes were made in the Use of Force policy (Policy 300) regarding the use of force options, which require the involved member to complete a Use of Force report, as follows:

- Policy addition- Reporting requirement addition of "Deadly Force other than Firearm". This addition was added, not due to any specific incident, but through continuous policy review and foresight that a circumstance could arise in the future. Department standards would best align with the ability to parse that specific information for reporting and review purposes.

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- Policy change- Language change in reporting requirements from “Injury-Seen by Physician” to “Any technique or physical force resulting in a *visible or apparent substantial injury*”. While both versions of this requirement have the same intent based upon the values of Lawrence Police Department, staff recognized there could be times when a technique causes a substantial injury and the subject is not seen by a physician. This language adjustment more appropriately aligns the policy with the intent of the policy.

Training

Proactively, each scheduled in-service training session during 2021 covered topics 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). The department reinforced this training by upgrading from the Taser X2 to the Taser 7, which provides more versatile options to the officer related to time and distance dynamics; when feasible.

There were no significant trends or training issues found by the Use of Force Review Board when reviewing the 2021 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 2021, the Lawrence Police Department logged 75,900 calls, which includes officer-initiated activity and citizens’ request for police services. From these calls, 1,863 individuals were arrested and taken into custody. Of the 75,900 calls, fourteen (14) encounters resulted in twenty-one (21) reportable use of force incidents. The Use of Force Review Board reviewed all twenty-one (21) incidents and found in each case, officers operated 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.

The demographics of individuals of which reportable force was applied in the fourteen (14) encounters are as follows:

Race/Gender: White Male: 8
White Female: 1
Black Male: 2
Native American Male: 2
Native American Female: 1

Age Range from 26 to 50 years of age

The reason for contact on the reviewed incidents were as follows:

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Call for Service: 12
Pedestrian Stop: 1
Vehicle Stop: 1

The following criminal violations were identified by arresting officers in the fourteen (14) encounters:

Driving Under the Influence of Drugs/Alcohol
Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving Injury/Damage
Transporting Open Container
Aggravated Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer
Driving while License Suspended
Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer
Interference with LEO; Obstruct warrant service or execution
Criminal Trespass
Aggravated Burglary; Occupied dwelling
Motor Vehicle Theft
Domestic Battery
Assault
Disorderly Conduct
Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer
Aggravated Battery
Probation Violation

Respectfully,



Shannon Riggs

Lieutenant

Use of Force Review Board Chair

attachment:
2021 UOF Incident Summary Report

Inc: Occurred date	Inc: Service rendered	Inc: Incident type	UOF: Type of force used	Inc: Disposition	UOF: Reason for using force	UOF: Employee was injured (y/n)	UOF: Employee assessment of cit condition	UOF: Citizen condition/ injury	Cit: Race	Cit: Gender	CitSp: Age
		force	Deployment Int.		Apprehension			Released - Scene			
04/26/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Other:Injury-physician	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Mentally unstable	* Admitted to Hospital	White	Male	26
04/26/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Other:Injury-physician	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Mentally unstable	* Admitted to Hospital	White	Male	26
04/26/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Other:Injury-physician	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Mentally unstable	* Admitted to Hospital	White	Male	26
04/26/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Other:Injury-physician	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Alcohol	* Admitted to Hospital	NATIVE AMERICAN	Male	50
04/26/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Other:Injury-physician	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Alcohol	Complaint of Pain	NATIVE AMERICAN	Male	50
05/05/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Other:Injury-physician	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	Yes	Mentally unstable	Complaint of Pain	White	Male	26
05/17/2021	Pedestrian Stop	Use of force	OC Spray	Within Policy	Defense of Self	No	Alcohol	Minor Injury	White	Male	26
07/19/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	OC Spray	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	Yes	Unknown	Abrasion/ Laceration	White	Male	40
07/19/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	OC Spray	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	Yes	Unknown	* Treated/ Released - Scene	White	Male	40
07/26/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Taser Deployment	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Unknown	Bone Fracture	Black	Male	48
07/26/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Taser Deployment	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Unknown	Minor Injury	Black	Male	48
09/11/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	OC Spray	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Mentally unstable	* Admitted to Hospital	White	Male	28
10/02/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Taser Deployment	Within Policy	Resist Arrest/ Apprehension	No	Mentally unstable	Minor Injury	White	Male	36
12/19/2021	Call for Service	Use of force	Taser Deployment	Within Policy	Defense of Another Person(s)	No	Mentally unstable	*Refused Medical Aid	NATIVE AMERICAN	Female	39