



# Rome Police Department 2014 Annual Report

## *Department Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Town of Rome Police Department to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors through effective crime reduction, preservation of the peace, and responsiveness to social changes in the community. We strive to focus on proactive policing and crime prevention.*

*Knowing law enforcement officers must maintain a high standard of conduct, the officers of the Town of Rome Police Department will strive to uphold the highest ethical ideals in both their professional and private lives. We will take an active role in establishing and maintaining a professional image of law enforcement in all our contacts with the public we serve through honesty and integrity.*

# **Welcome to the 2014** **Rome Police Department** **Annual Report**

Let me begin by thanking you for taking the time to review the accomplishments of the Rome Police Department in 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you information about the structure, skills, and specialized services offered by the Rome Police Department. Many assume a small town law enforcement agency has little to offer the citizens of a community. As you page through this report please consider how you or a loved one may someday need the expertise and specialized training offered by the Rome Police Department. I am confident these professionals will be there in your time of need as we continue to strive to improve law enforcement services in the Town of Rome.

Since 1998 Town of Rome residents have been fortunate to live in a community which offers year round local police protection. Staffing was reduced in late 2014 by one full-time position without giving up 24-hour police services after the resignation of a full-time officer. This effort confirms that your local government continues to recognize the importance of providing public safety, while being fiscally responsible with tax dollars. All of us at the Rome Police Department are proud to be a vital part of this community's infrastructure and we look forward to serving you well into the future.

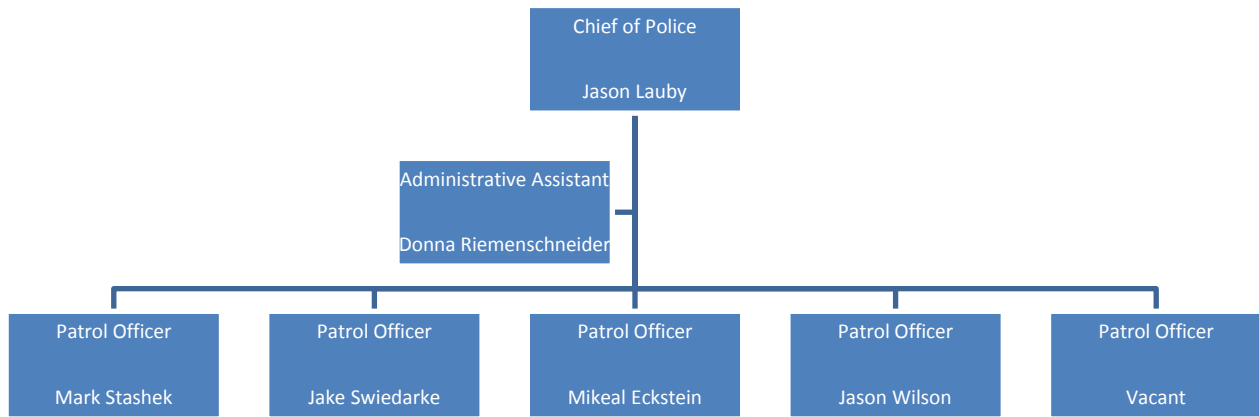
As always, I welcome any questions or concerns anyone may have about the Rome Police Department.

Respectfully,

Jason Lauby – Chief of Police

# Rome Police Officers

In 2014 a full-time officer left the Rome Police Department to pursue other opportunities. In January of 2014 the Police Chief's job description was changed to a working position from a fully administrative position. The Chief is now responsible for covering patrol duties as well as administrative duties. This change, along with changes to the labor agreement with the police officers, has allowed the Rome Police Department to reduce staffing levels by one full-time position. Currently we are exploring leaving another full-time position vacant, while continuing to provide 24 hour police services. Year-end budget figures show the police budget in 2014 ended lower than three years earlier with many equipment upgrades such as communications, and medical supplies added in the ending 2014 figure.



All full-time officers completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of in-service training to maintain their status as sworn police officers in Wisconsin. In addition, all full-time officers are certified as emergency medical responders. Several officers in the department are also certified instructors in areas such as Firearms, Defense and Arrest Tactics, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and Vehicle Contacts.

While it is mandatory to complete 24 hours of in-service training annually, it is not uncommon for our officers to participate in well over 100 hours of training in a calendar year.

# **Rome Police Boat Patrol**



In 2014 the Rome Police Department continued the boat patrol program to enforce boating regulations on the Town's three lakes. Part-time seasonal officers patrolled Rome's lakes throughout the summer.

Officers patrolled Rome's Lakes from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Officers did the best they could to patrol each lake in Rome equally throughout the busy weekends. Throughout the boating season our boat patrol officers issued twenty-five (25) citations for boating violations. Officers recorded 261 patrol hours on Rome's lakes. The presence of officers on our lakes has continued to reduce the number of boating related complaints received by our department. More importantly, we are pleased that throughout the summer no serious injuries were reported on the lakes in the Town of Rome.

The total expenditure for the 2014 boat patrol including wages, equipment, and fuel was \$7,737.17. Once again, we submitted these expenditures to the Wisconsin DNR and expect to be reimbursed approximately 60-70% of our boat patrol expenses. The boat patrol remains to be one of our most cost effective programs thanks in part to the assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

# **Rome Police Vehicle** **Fleet**

In 2014 the Rome Police Department maintained a patrol fleet of six (6) fully equipped patrol vehicles, one (1) four wheel drive/tow vehicle, and one (1) unmarked vehicle. This allows each officer to utilize a patrol vehicle and keep these vehicles at their residence when off-duty for those officers residing in the Town of Rome. The take-home car program continues to be a popular choice for police departments throughout the country. Not only does this create a higher police presence in the community, but ensures each officer will instantly be ready to be called into service in the event of an emergency. The take-home car program has proven to not only be effective in officer response, but is also cost effective as it allows the department to utilize a vehicle five to seven years before replacement is necessary. The initial startup cost of purchasing a higher volume of vehicles and equipment was completed several years ago and is now a cost effective way to ensure the Rome Police Department has adequate resources available to provide exemplary law enforcement services.

The Rome Police Department also maintains a patrol boat for providing boat patrol on area lakes. We also have one utility boat for the installation and removal of regulatory buoys, dive team operations, and additional boat patrol.



# **Budget**

In the 2014 budget, the budgeted expenditures for the complete operation of the Rome Police Department totaled \$779,018.07. We worked hard to reduce spending wherever possible and I am pleased to report that we ended 2014 approximately \$169,501.21 under our 2013 ending budget with total expenditures equaling \$718,353.43.

## **2014 Expenses**

Police Chiefs Wages - \$62,821.59  
Administrative Assistant Wages – \$40,693.20  
Officer Full-time Wages - \$296,671.49  
Officer Part-time (boat patrol) Wages - \$17,867.22  
Police Benefits - \$169,426.96  
Police Operations - \$44,711.94  
Police Fuel – \$20,766.32  
Police Uniforms - \$6,084.55  
Police Training - \$6,822.87  
Police Outlay - \$34,762.94  
Police Utilities - \$ 5,419.14  
Debt Service – \$6,886.07  
Legal Services-\$ 5,419.14

# **2014 Recorded Incidents**

In 2014 the Rome Police Department responded to 1,200 calls for service and referred 77 criminal charges to the Adams County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

## **Property Crime**

Protecting the personal investments of our citizens continues to be one of the primary focuses of the Rome Police Department. Compared to surrounding communities the level of property crime in the Town of Rome remains low. 24/7 police patrol and the efforts of our citizens to report suspicious activity certainly contributes to the safety and security of property in Rome. In 2014 Rome Police Officers investigated 11 Burglaries, 40 Thefts and Fraud, and 15 cases of Vandalism.

## **Traffic Crashes and Enforcement**

The Rome Police Department strives to keep our highways safe year-round through consistent police presence and proactive enforcement. Rome Police Officers issued 505 Citations in 2014 and arrested 26 drivers for Operating Under the Influence of Intoxicants.

In 2014 officers investigated 80 motor vehicle crashes, to include 6 hit and run crashes, and one fatal crash.

## **Crimes against Persons**

While we are fortunate to live in a relatively safe community the Rome Police Department also investigates cases of violence against others. In 2014; officers investigated 5 cases of child abuse, 4 cases of sexual assault, 1 case of strangulation, 8 domestic disturbances, 27 cases of disorderly conduct, and 5 cases of battery. Many of these cases involve lengthy investigations which our officers are trained to complete from initial contact through arrest.