

To: Mayor Pexton & Members of the City Council
Administrator JD Cox

From: Todd Byerly
Chief of Police

Date: June 1, 2023

Re: Police Department Report – May 2023

We received official notification that we have received funding in the amount of \$100,036.25 from the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (RVCRI). Teya and Chief Byerly met with the Program Manager on May 31, 2023, and have fulfilled all requirements to begin implantation of the three (3) tier program. This grant will pay \$34,000 for a TruNarc handheld drug analyzer, \$31,034 in phone forensic equipment, software, and training, as well as \$35,095 in overtime for violent crime/drug investigation.

Teya and Chief Byerly and Justin Lane and Chris Caskey on May 30, 2023, to discuss the feasibility of a city-wide camera system. There is a Bureau of Justice grant opportunity to apply for a no match grant up to \$300,000. We just found out about this grant and the grant application deadline is June 13, 2023. We will be looking at applying for several Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras to be placed about the City of Douglas as well as supporting video storage and installation cost. The PTZ cameras require a 180 – 360-degree view and can be used with a remote camera controller. The strategy used to apply for this grant will be to implement or improve agency capacity using critical elements (technology). This will tie in with investigations and reducing violent crime and drug availability.

Officer Knight is in his third week of K9 training. He had the opportunity to work with and select his partner from three (3) dogs. He has selected “Red” a two (2) year old Labrador Retriever. Red and Officer Knight will be completing their certification test on Monday, May 8, 2023.

Sgt’s Cowardin and Toman, along with Detective Lemman and Officer Jones, were selected to become state-wide trainers in Mental Health First Aid. Only ten (10) officers from the State of Wyoming attended this training. As first responders we see, hear and through the course of our duties are exposed to enormous trauma, stress and critical incidents that over time can take a toll on our mental and physical health. There is not an easy button answer, there is no reset, but there is a need to do what we can to protect the protectors. Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety teaches officers how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses or substance use disorders. Our four (4) officers will now be able to teach other law enforcement officers in this area.

Sgt Cowardin organized a financial awareness planning seminar which was held on May 30, 2023. This presentation had several presenters from the Wyoming Retirement system, financial institutions, and investment companies to speak with employees on retirement planning, investment differences such as CD’s, IRA’s, stocks, bonds, savings accounts, etc. This is part of the department’s strategic goals for 2023/2024 to improve officer and employee wellness. The other two (2) components involve mental

and physical wellness. This ties right into the Cities Strategic Doing areas of Appealing and Safe Communities and Building Community.

Officer Dwyer attended a Gilmartin Emotional Survival Seminar.

Officer Howard is progressing through her basic academy training. She has completed her 5th week of basic training and we look forward to getting her back in the community.

Attached are several letters of appreciation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd A. Byerly
Chief of Police