



ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Decorah Police Department

Authored by: Chief Smutzler



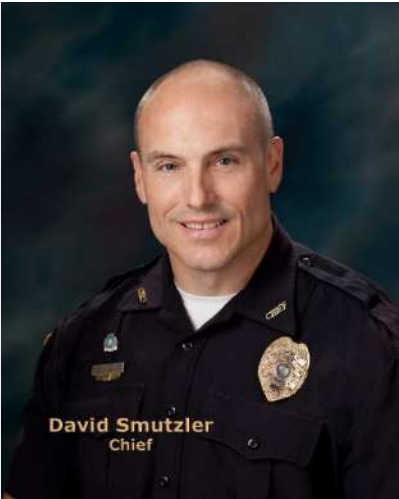
Message from the Chief

2020 will be a year that no one soon forgets. Our City, State, Country, as well as the world has experienced a great deal this past year. The same can be said for our chosen profession. To say that it was an unusual year for us at the Police Department is a gross understatement. We had to adapt and change almost every; protocol, job, responsibility, and service that we provide. We went from being a very community orientated/involved department to minimizing our contact with everyone.

This report is a summary of what the past year has been like for the Decorah Police Department. It is a summary of everything from calls for service, arrest and crime stats, as well as a look at what has been going on with us for the past year. Due to the world wide COVID pandemic our numbers have been greatly affected. Everything from training hours, to traffic citations, to cases, will be down. We know this is only a temporary trend, and we will rebound to more of a norm in the coming year(s).

On behalf of the Decorah Police Department, we would like to thank the community for the support that we received during this difficult past year. We vow to continue to work hard for you by serving our community with professionalism, dedication, and integrity.

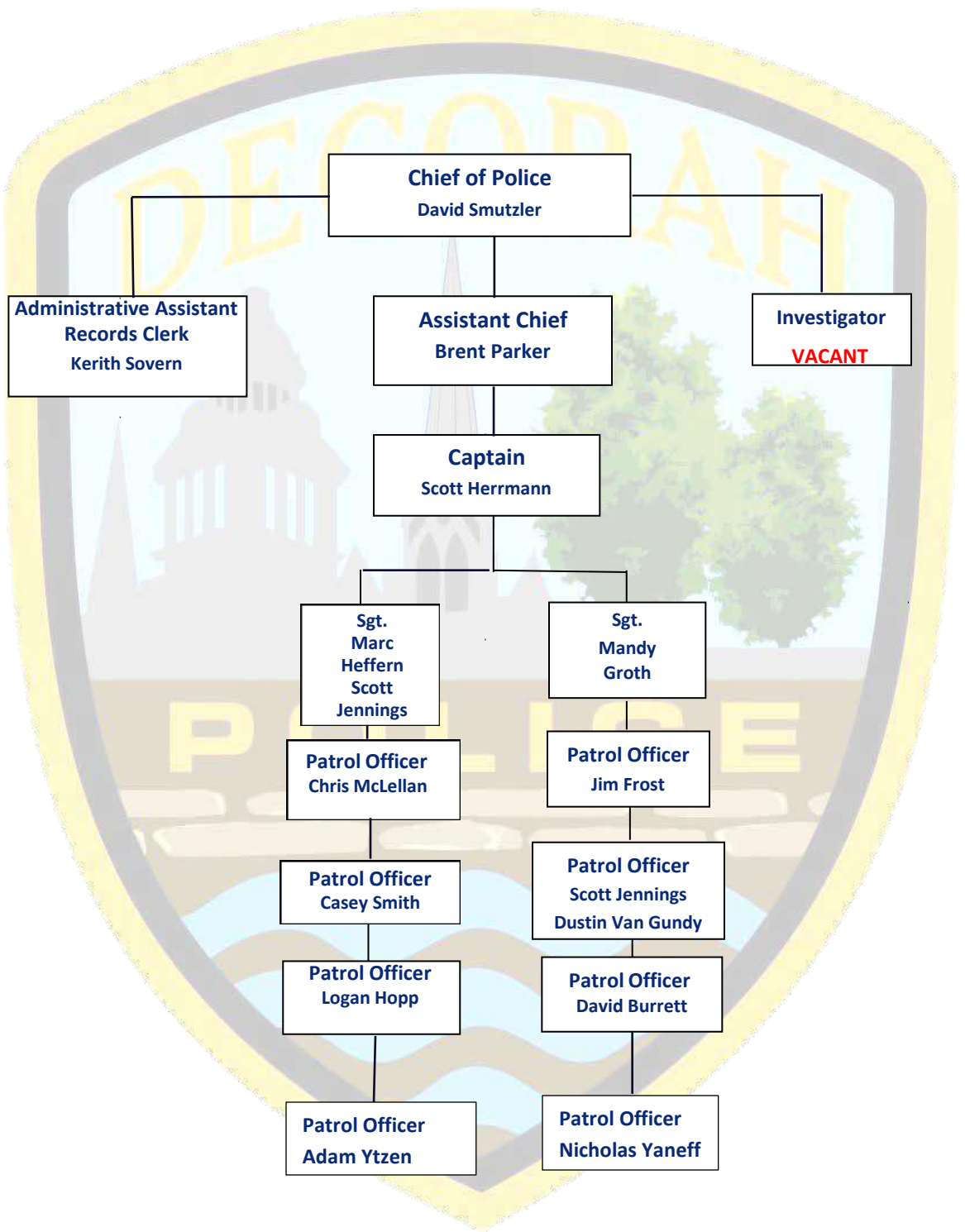
Dave Smutzler
Decorah Police Chief



Decorah Police Department Personnel



Personnel	Position	Yrs of Service
David Smutzler	Chief	29
Scott Herrmann	Captain	23
Marc Heffern	Sergeant	25
Mandy Groth	Sergeant	18
Chris McLellan	Patrol Officer	10
Jim Frost	Patrol Officer	10
Brent Parker	Assistant Chief	5
Casey Smith	Patrol Officer	5
Scott Jennings	Patrol Officer/Sergeant	4
Logan Hopp	Patrol Officer	3
David Burrett	Patrol Officer	3
Dustin Van Gundy	Patrol Officer	1
Nicholas Yaneff	Patrol Officer	1
Adam Ytzen	Patrol Officer	1
Keri Sovern	Administrative Clerk	4



Decorah Police Department

Annual Report 2020



Personnel

We have 13 full-time sworn personnel, and 1 administrative assistant/records clerk.

Deployment of personnel

- **Chief** - Administrative duties, organizational planning, and calls for service as needed.
- **Assistant Chief** - Day shift supervisor, administrative duties, calls for service.
- **Captain** - Day shift supervisor, management of various programs, calls for service.
- **Sergeants** - Night shift supervision, calls for service
- **Patrol Officers** - Calls for service, patrol, officer initiated activity.
- **Records Clerk** - Data entry, file management, records requests.

This year we saw three retirements;

**Decorah Police Sergeant Marc Heffern (May)
25 years of service**



**Decorah Dispatcher Lisa Kruse (June)
20 years of Service**



**Decorah Police Officer Jim Frost (December)
10 years of service**



Newly hired Decorah Police Officer Nicholas Yaneff graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in April. He received the Top Scholastic Achievement award, graduating #1 in his class.



It was a big year for Officer Yaneff as he also attended and graduated from D.A.R.E. training. He will be our new D.A.R.E. officer.



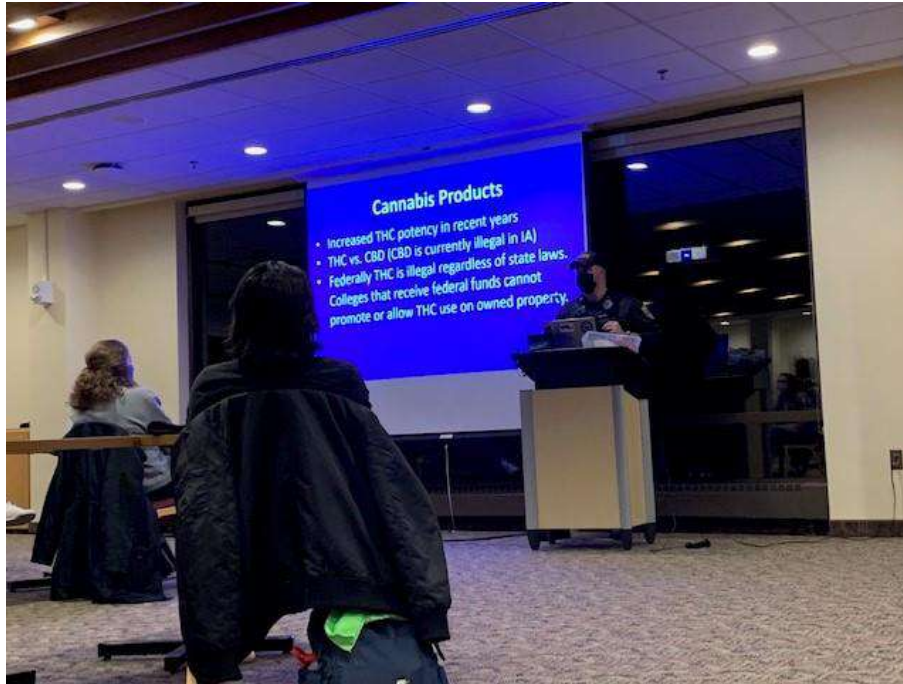
We created and implemented 3 new Community orientated programs this year.

- 1. An electronic Bias reporting system.**
 - a. We were informed that there may be people in the community that are hesitant to speak with Police Officers. These people may be targets of Bias incidents in our community. A few reports of such instances that happened in Decorah were given to me, and we had no records of the incidents ever being reported. It was suggested that if we had an electronic reporting mechanism on our webpage, that we may learn about instances that occur in our community. With the information that we obtain from this mechanism we can; increase patrol in areas where these incidents are occurring, track such incidents, and investigate them.**

- 2. Elderly Care Program.**
 - a. The police department is piloting a program to have Officers make home visits and video/telephone calls with elders requesting regular welfare checks in the Decorah city limits. The PD is partnering with local non-profits and government agencies to identify elders, coordinate assistance to them, and provide program oversight. The program's goal is to prevent individual isolation, to promote increased quality of life, to engage in community outreach, and to reduce crimes for elders in the Decorah community. The pilot program will last approximately six months. At the end of the trial, we will review the program to determine how to best implement it moving forward.**

- 3. Vacation Home Check.**
 - a. When a resident of Decorah goes on vacation, the Police Department can offer extra patrol to check on their property. The Vacation Watch Program should give you some peace of mind while you're away. When your home is listed with the Decorah Police Department for a vacation watch, Officers periodically stop and check on your home. Officers may walk around your home to see if there is anything unusual or if there is any apparent damage. If any sign of forced entry or unexpected change occurs you or your emergency contacts will be contacted.**

This year we provided 26 educational presentations to the public and schools.



Decorah Police Sgt. Scott Jennings training RAs at Luther College



Some major accomplishments that we achieved this year;

- 1. We transitioned the Dispatch Center to Emergency Management**
 - a. This took several months of working together with Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Department, and the City of Decorah.**
- 2. We moved the Dispatch Center away from the front window and lobby area.**
 - a. This was done so that dispatchers could concentrate on emergency 9-1-1 calls as well as Officer's/Deputies radio traffic, and not be distracted by activity in the lobby/front window.**
- 3. We purchased new CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) software and RMS (Records Management) Software.**
 - a. This again involved months of work and research by the Decorah Police Department, Emergency Management, and the Winneshiek County Sheriff's Office.**
 - b. This was a very costly and overdue venture. Our current CAD/RMS systems are very outdated and not user-friendly.**
 - c. It takes a year to build the system. It will be implemented in late April of 2021.**
- 4. We purchased and installed a new generator at the Law Enforcement Center.**
 - a. Another costly and much overdue project.**
 - b. Parts were no longer being made for the old generator**
 - c. The generator was original to the building (30 years old)**

Learn more about us on our website <http://www.decorahia.org>

Walking school bus; assisting kids at a street crossing.



Not related to the assisting wildlife across the street program



2020 Officer Trainings

With the pandemic our staff saw many of their trainings cancelled, so we had to find new ways to incorporate educational opportunities. Many took advantages of local in-house, and on-line trainings. Keeping current on new trends in Law Enforcement and technology as well as keeping a well-trained staff has never been more important.

Our staff completed the normal required trainings, but also were able to attend some specialty trainings as well. Some notable instructional blocks that our staff attended in 2020 included; De-escalation and Communication, Unconscious/Implicit Bias, FBI Leadership school, handgun & rifle armorers training, Child and Dependent Adult Abuse Mandatory Reporting, D.A.R.E. Instructor training, Mental Health for Law Enforcement, and many supervisory/management instructional classes. We did send one officer to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy for basic police training where he compiled 619 hours of training. In total our staff logged 1210.5 hours of training in 2020.



Goals for 2021

1. Getting back to once again being a community engaged and involved Police Department
 - a. COVID really hampered our interactions
2. Revise and update our Policy manual
3. Get the D.A.R.E. program started again in the Decorah schools
4. Once we start with the new RMS system, see if we can transition to a paperless operation
5. Revamp our parking citation system
 - a. Currently handwritten
 - b. Move to electronic citations



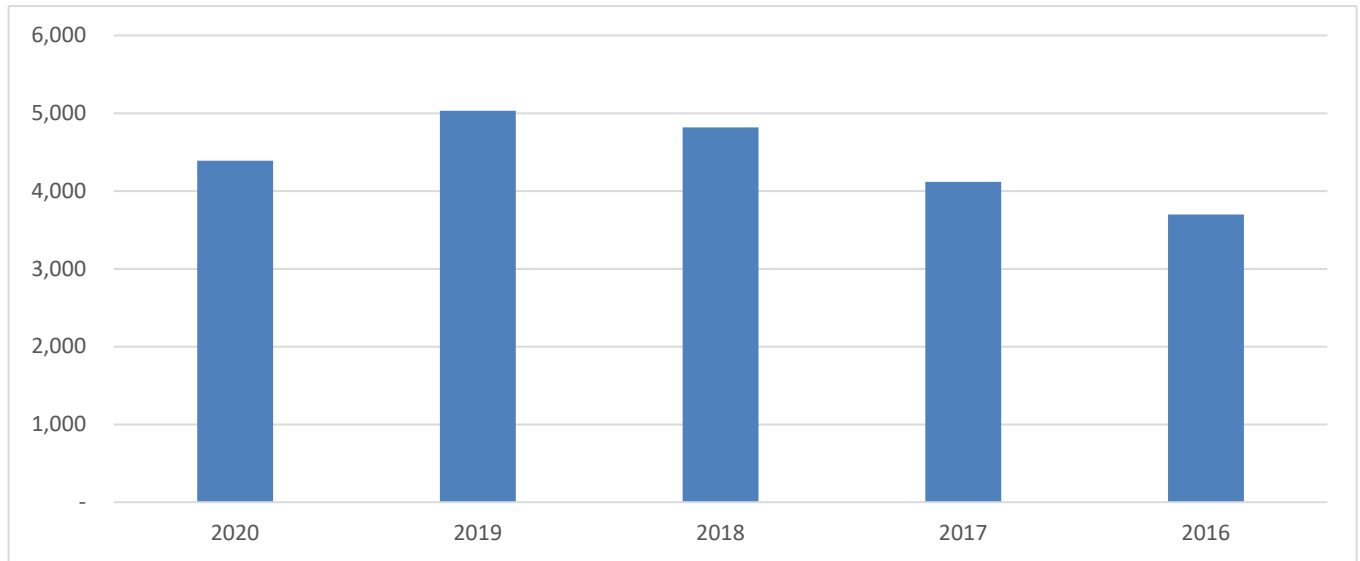
INCIDENTS Reported to the State of Iowa

Type	Number reported	Type	Number reported
Forceable Rape	1	Animal Bite	3
Aggravated Assault	1	DHS referral	1
Simple Assault	1	Fire	1
Domestic Abuse / Assault	3	Medical Assist	2
Breaking and Entering	3	Public Accident	5
Shoplifting	39	Unattended Death	7
Theft from Building	2	Violation No Contact	2
All Other Larceny	5	Indecent Exposure	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	Interference	1
Counterfeiting / Forgery	2	Barking Dog	1
False Pretenses / Swindle	4	Criminal Mischief	1
Credit Card Fraud	1	Total	180
Stolen Property Offenses	2		
Destruction of Property	4		
Drug / Narcotic Violations	20		
Drug Equipment Violations	13		
Statutory Rape	1		
Bad Checks	1		
Disorderly Conduct	2		
Driving Under Influence	16		
Drunkenness	8		
Family Offense	1		
Liquor Law Violations	1		
Trespass of Real Property	2		
Driving While Barred	5		
Driving While Revoked	1		
Driving While Suspended	2		
Harassment	5		
Operate w/o Owner Consent	2		
Sell Tobacco to Minor	1		

2020 Decorah Police Department Statistics

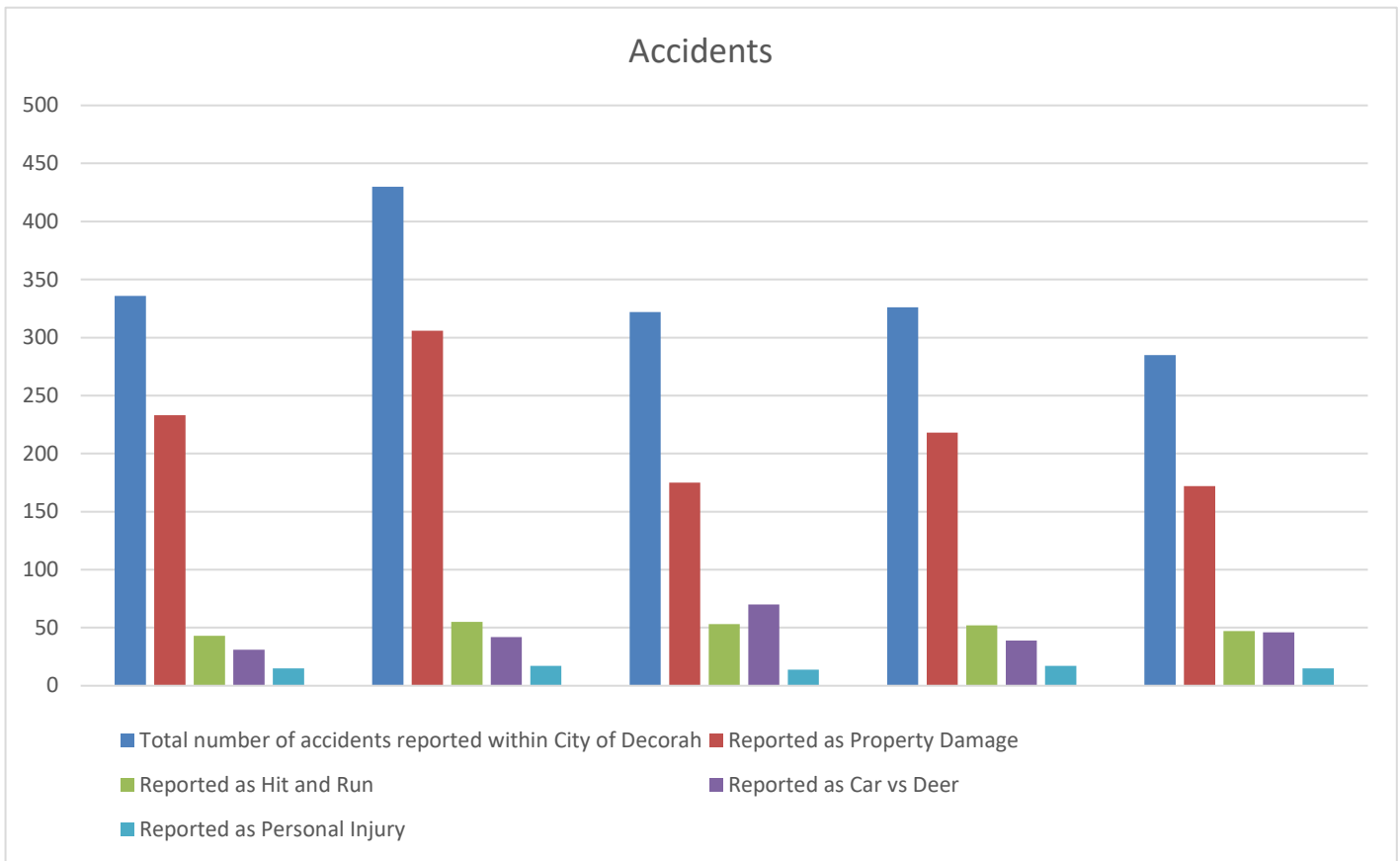
CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Decorah Police Calls for Service	4,388	5,032	4,816	4,119	3,699



ACCIDENTS

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total number of accidents reported within City of Decorah					
Decorah	336	430	322	326	285
Reported as Property Damage	233	306	175	218	172
Reported as Hit and Run	43	55	53	52	47
Reported as Car vs Deer	31	42	70	39	46
Reported as Personal Injury	15	17	14	17	15
Amount of damage as a result of accidents reported to the state	\$597,251	\$715,023	\$556,900	\$ 594,920	\$442,950



2020 TRAFFIC STATS

Traffic Citations Issued	275
Traffic Warnings Issued	518
OWI charges	12

Arrests - by Type

Arrest Date: 01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020

Type	Arrests	-----SEX-----			-----RACE-----					-----ETHNIC-----	
		Male	Female	Unk	White	Black	Indian	Asian	Unk	Hisp	NonHisp
Aggravated Assault	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Simple Assault	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
DOMESTIC ABUSE/ASSAULT	3	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	2
Shoplifting	37	13	24	0	30	4	0	0	3	2	35
Theft from Building	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
False Pretenses/Swindle	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Destruction of Property	5	4	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Drug/Narcotic Violations	28	21	7	0	22	4	0	1	1	1	27
Drug Equipment Violations	15	12	3	0	13	1	0	0	1	0	15
Statutory Rape	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Disorderly Conduct	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Driving Under Influence	12	11	1	0	11	0	0	0	1	2	10
Drunkenness	8	6	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	7
Liquor Law Violations	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Trespass of Real Property	4	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
All Other Offenses	15	14	1	0	14	1	0	0	0	0	15
TOTAL Offenses	137	95	42	0	117	11	0	1	8	7	130
TOTAL Arrests	110 (counts the number of distinct arrest reports - arrest with multiple charges is counted as 1)										

Note: this report counts the total occurrences of charges for each arrest report (Total Offenses) and total distinct arrests (Total Arrests)

Statistics - Narcotics Activity

The following is a compilation of narcotics activity in Decorah for calender year 2020.

Arrests 2020

Misdemeanor Arrests	27
Felony Arrests	6

Controlled Substances Seized (in gms)

Cocaine	0
Cannabis concentrates (total product weight)	77
Marijuana	79
Marijuana Plants	0
Methamphetamine	13
Pharmaceuticals (in pills)	48
Hallucinogens	0
Ecstasy	0

Clandestine Labs Seized 0

Criminal Forfeitures (total value in dollars)	\$1,165
Firearms Seized	2

Types of Investigations

Investigations Initiated	49
Investigations Closed	35
Drug Endangered Children Referrals	2
Number of Federal Referrals	0
Criminal Groups Disrupted	1

Searches

Search Warrants	6
K-9 Searches	10

Community Presentations 1

