

Crowley Police Department

2023



Year End Use of Force Report

This report summarizes the uses of force by the officers of the Crowley Police Department for the 2023 calendar year.

Preface

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Crowley Police Department's Use of Force for calendar year 2023. The Crowley Police Department takes its obligations seriously to provide the most effective and efficient police service with the least adverse impact on our citizens. The Crowley Police Department is committed to protecting the rights of all persons and in using force only when necessary, and to the extent necessary, to achieve legal objectives. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.10 and to attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of incidents and the inherent risks involved.

Members are trained by the department to use only the level of force objectively reasonable in carrying out their lawful objectives.

Use of Force Reporting Policy

Per Crowley Police Department Chapter 6.1 Use of Force Policy, a detailed offense or information report will be completed, along with the Use of Force Supplement Report Form anytime a member uses the following force:

1. Any empty hand control techniques that are used with or without complaint of injury or pain. Examples of empty hand control techniques may include:
 - i. Hand/Palm/Elbow Strikes
 - ii. Kicks or Leg Sweeps
 - iii. Pressure Points
 - iv. Take Downs
2. Any deployment of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC Spray) or other chemical agent, including Pepperball projectiles, on a person(s).
3. Any CEW (Taser) probe deployment or drive-stun application, regardless if contact is made.
4. The use of any impact weapon or impact munitions on a person, regardless if contact is made.
5. Any intentional firearm discharge at a person, vehicle, animal, or structure regardless of injury.
6. Any unintentional firearms discharge.
7. Any other type of force that result in injury, serious bodily injury, or death.

Each individual member using force is required to complete a use of force report. Each member will complete an accurate and detailed report documenting the reason for police contact, description of circumstances and subject actions that resulted in the use of force, and the result of the force used. All involved members on scene at the time force was used are required to complete supplemental narratives detailing their role, subject actions they observed, or any other pertinent details surrounding the incident.

Use of Force Review Process

Each individual Use of Force Report is reviewed by the member's direct supervisor, and through the chain of command to the Chief of Police. The Use of Force is reviewed to ensure the use is objectively reasonable and within the guidelines of department policy and law. If it is determined that the force used is not objectively reasonable, a departmental investigation is required and the member may receive additional training or in some cases discipline up to, and including termination. This analysis is not intended to determine if a member has acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest changes in policy, training, equipment or supervision.

The data collected from this report was generated manually from the paper Use of Force Supplement Report Form currently used by the Crowley Police Department. The original copies of the Use of Force Report are submitted to the Senior Administrative Assistant and are scanned into the department Administrative "T" Drive. The originals are submitted to the Records Clerk for filing and retention.

Use of Force Comparison 2022/2023

During the course of the 2023 calendar year, the Department had eleven (11) incidents where Crowley Police Officers had to overcome resistance to commands, affect an arrest/compliance, or halt destructive or assaultive behavior. These uses of force were broken down from a total of eleven (11) separate incidents. All (11) incidents involved only one subject. Each of these incidents were unique in which a total of nineteen (19) use of force reports were completed by personnel in relation to their involvement in each of the above incidents.

Members used soft weaponless control (muscling, joint locks, pressure points) in eight (8) of the incidents to gain compliance. Members pointed a duty weapon fourteen (14) times to gain compliance.

The Use of Force incidents are listed below by type with comparison to the previous year:

Type of Force Used	2022	2023	Difference
Physical Control	8	9	+1
Chemical Irritants	0	0	0
Impact Weapon	0	0	0
Electronic Control Device	0	4	+4
Deadly Force	0	0	0
Total	8	13	+5

Demographic Statistics

- Uses of force involved a total of nine (9) different officers.
- Force was used against eleven (11) individuals; 9 males and 2 females.
- The racial make-up of those eleven individuals is; three (3) white, seven (7) black, and one (1) Hispanic.
- The average age of offender was 25.
- Force used against two (2) juveniles (14 and 15 years of age)

Injuries

Three (3) subjects sustained or complained of injuries as a result of the force used. All subjects sustained minor abrasions as a result of empty-hand control. One (1) subject had a seizure after an exposure to an electronic control device. Subject was transported to the emergency room and subsequently cleared by medical staff.

Three (3) officers were injured during this reporting period.

Times of Occurrence

- Use of force incidents occurred one (1) time between 6am and 6pm.
- Use of force incidents occurred ten (10) times between 6pm and 6am.

Time frames coincide with the current 12-hour patrol shift schedule.

Citizen and Supervisory Complaints Regarding Use of Force

In 2023, there were no citizen complaints regarding the use of force.

There were two internal or supervisory complaints regarding use of force during the 2023 calendar year. Both were related to the same incident and resulted in two officers receiving training memorandums.

Training

The department requires that sworn members receive training in the Use of Force Policy bi-annually. Training is given on-line to review current policy and in-person during annual less lethal weapon certifications.

Non-sworn civilians and telecommunicators are required to receive training in the Use of Force Policy annually.

All training regarding the use of force is documented by the department.

Summary and Recommendations


Based on the findings during the 2023 analysis, we are currently satisfied that officers of the Crowley Police Department are within the policies of procedures established by the department.

Based on last calendar year's (2022) summary, the department considered and ultimately decided to amend our Use of Force policy to remove the pointing of firearms (only) as a reportable use of force.

Policy Enhancements

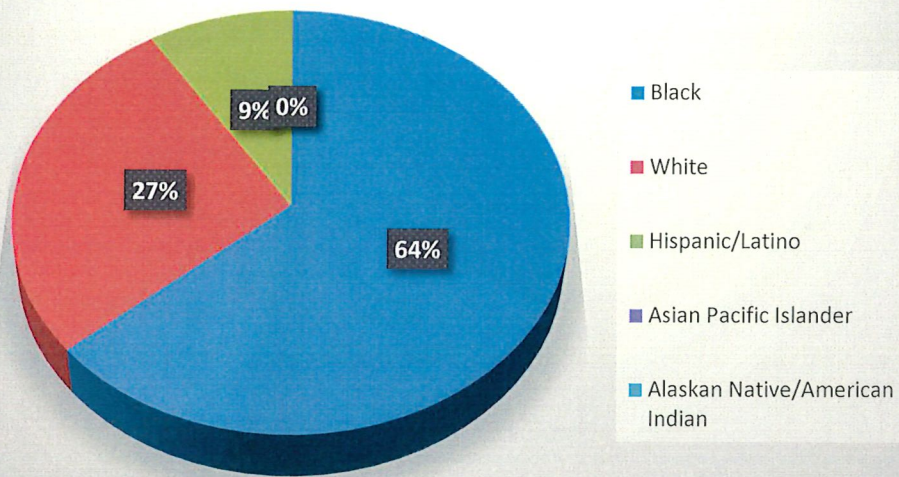
The Use of Force Policy was updated on 3-10-23 to remove the pointing of a firearm (only) as a reportable use of force.

The Use of Policy is reviewed annually, in June, and as needed throughout the year.



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Use of Force by Race/Ethnicity



Use of Force by Gender

