

# Response to Resistance Analysis Report - 2024

# 2024

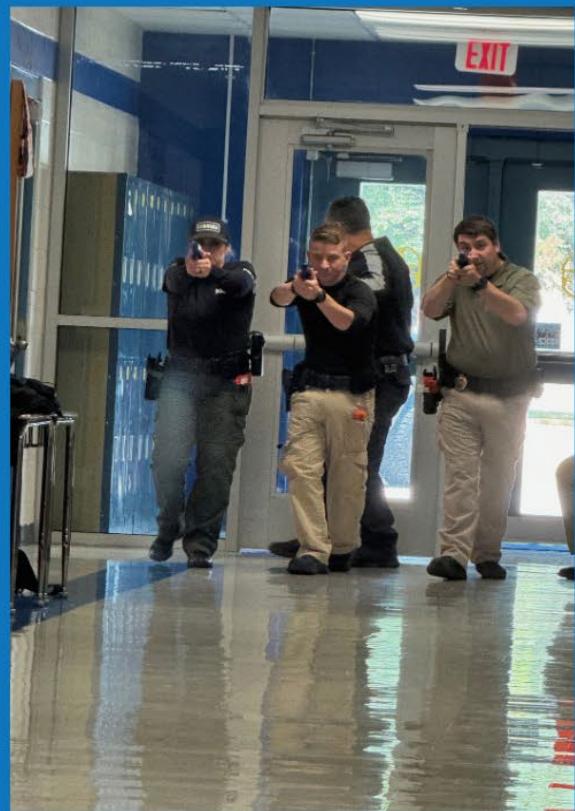


## Lago Vista Police Department



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## INTRODUCTION

This analysis was conducted to review the Lago Vista Police Department's Use of Force for the calendar year 2024. The Lago Vista Police Department is dedicated to providing effective and efficient police service with the least adverse impact on our citizens. We are committed to protecting the rights of all individuals and using force only when absolutely necessary and to the extent required to achieve lawful objectives. This analysis is conducted each year to attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of incidents and the inherent risks involved.

Officers are trained by the department to use only the level of force necessary to bring a person under control and complete a legal objective. Police/citizen encounters can, however, change instantly, and officers may be required to react quickly by using force to subdue a resisting subject. While officers prefer to escalate their level of force in an orderly manner to use the lowest level possible, a subject's response may limit that ability and force officers to use whatever level of force is immediately available to protect themselves and the public. Officers received use-of-force training, including using deadly force and using less-lethal weapons, in 2024. Officers received further training in de-escalation tactics and techniques.

The Lago Vista Police Department's Policy Section 6.1 mandates that a written report must be completed whenever an officer uses force. On June 23, 2023, the department adopted a new policy manual, which requires officers to complete a specific form following each use-of-force incident. This form has been transitioned from paper to an electronic reporting system in 2023. Additionally, these practices and policies require a review by supervisory and command-level personnel for each use-of-force incident to ensure compliance with the department's use-of-force policy.

To uphold our department's commitment to excellence and transparency, we have added the Lago Vista Police Department's Use of Force Policy manual to our website.

## METHODOLOGY

In evaluating incidents from 2024 and equipment carried by officers, the department is defining six types of use of force for reporting purposes: Weaponless Control, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Sprays, Conducted Energy Weapons, Impact Weapons, Display of Firearm, and Discharge of Firearms. Data was drawn from all Use of Force forms submitted during the year to analyze the use of force for 2024.

## DEFINITION

**a. Weaponless Control:** This category includes all instances where simple verbal commands were not sufficient or effective. It includes those instances where officers place their hands on a subject and use more force than simply a strong grip, must forcibly handcuff a person, and use pressure point control tactics or other soft hand techniques. This category also includes taking the person to the ground in order to handcuff forcibly.

**b. OC Spray:** Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) is a chemical compound derived from various pepper plants. It is mixed with a propellant that many law enforcement agencies use as a less-lethal alternative to higher and more injury-producing levels of force. The chemical spray is usually directed at a resisting subject's face, and the spray immediately causes burning of the eyes, nose, and mouth, causing the subject to close their eyes and, in most cases, stop any physical resistance. The burning usually dissipates within 30 minutes and often has no long-term aftereffects.

**c. Impact Weapons:** Include the use of the personally owned expandable Batons, a closed fist, or any other implement used to deliver a strike to a person.

**d. Conducted Energy Weapons:** Conducted Energy Weapons, commonly called Tasers, are pistol-type devices that fire two small darts designed to embed themselves in the skin or clothing of a resisting or combative suspect. The darts are connected to the device by small flexible wires that transmit a 5-second-high voltage/low amperage charge. This causes disruption of muscle activity and is accompanied by pain, which most often temporarily disables the individual. The device usually has no long-term side effects on healthy individuals.

**e. Display of Firearm:** Firearms are, by definition, Deadly Force, and their use is very restricted. Officers must comply with their intensive training, the department's Deadly Force Policy, and state law. Officers may display their firearms in a situation where there is a possibility that deadly force would be justified or where an unknown level of danger exists. Often, the mere display of the firearm is enough to gain compliance.

**f. Discharge of Firearms:** Firearms are, by definition, Deadly Force, and their use is very restricted. Officers must comply with their intensive training and the department's Deadly Force Policy and state law. When an officer fires their weapon in the line of duty, whether or not an individual is hit, a detailed investigation is undertaken to determine if that use was in compliance with both policy and law.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Lago Vista Police Department's general orders require that a written report be completed by each officer who responds to an incident involving resistance. After such an incident, a thorough review process begins, starting with the immediate supervisor and continuing up through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.

This review includes an assessment of all relevant materials, such as available audio and video recordings, the offense report, photographs, and the response-to-resistance reports submitted by each officer involved. Each officer's actions are reviewed independently.

An officer's response to resistance is deemed justified when the level of force used to overcome the resistance aligns with departmental policy and state law. Throughout the review process, each level of command has the opportunity to make recommendations, which may involve educational, corrective, or disciplinary actions. The Chief of Police makes the final determinations regarding the findings of the response-to-resistance reviews.

## ANNUAL SUMMARY

This year is our first documented Response to Resistance Incidents. There is no data of the previous year's number of responses to resistance incidents in the years 2018-2022.

Our agency tracks how many incidents we have had and how many officers on a single incident used force to overcome resistance. Incidents are listed below with the highest level of force used for each incident and the individual officer's activity during those incidents. In situations where multiple less lethal options were deployed, only effective deployment is included in the incident breakdown.

The calls-for-service vs. use-of-force data indicates that force is consistently used in less than 0.0018% of incidents. The arrest vs. use of force statistics indicated three in five arrests (60%) involved a use-of-force incident.

| Category          | 2023   | 2024   |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Calls for Service | 12,283 | 19,195 |
| Arrests           | 56     | 102    |
| Use-of-Force      | 22     | 9      |

In 2024, the department was found to have engaged in **9** use-of-force incidents. The breakdown of these incidents by the type of force used is as follows: 3—Display of

Firearm, 2—Taser Deployed / Displayed, 4—Empty Hand Techniques. The department had no documented instances of using Impact Weapons, OC Spray, or Discharge Firearms. While there are 9 documented uses of force, some of these are during the same incident but reported as a separate use of force.

Upon review of every use of force incident during 2024, supervisory review on the use of force and command staff reviews of the use of force showed that each use of force incident was within established department policy and procedures.

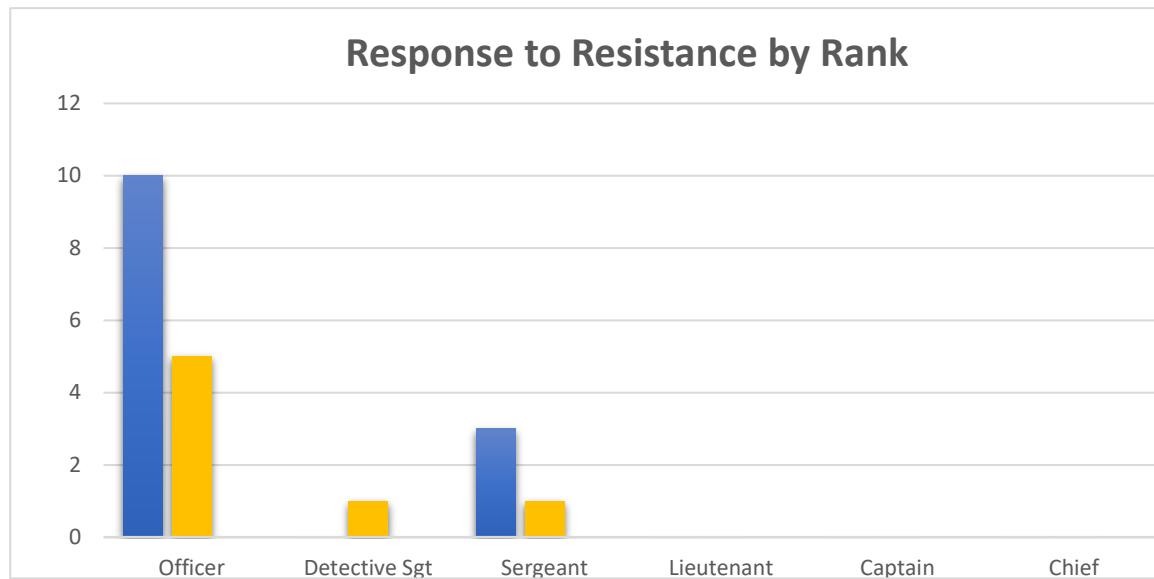
## OFFICER RESPONSE

In 2024, of the 9 individual reports, 5 Patrol Officers and 2 Sergeants used force. Our agency tracks how many incidents we have in the statistics and observations on all incidents used for response to resistance.

## OFFICERS RESPONSE BY RANK

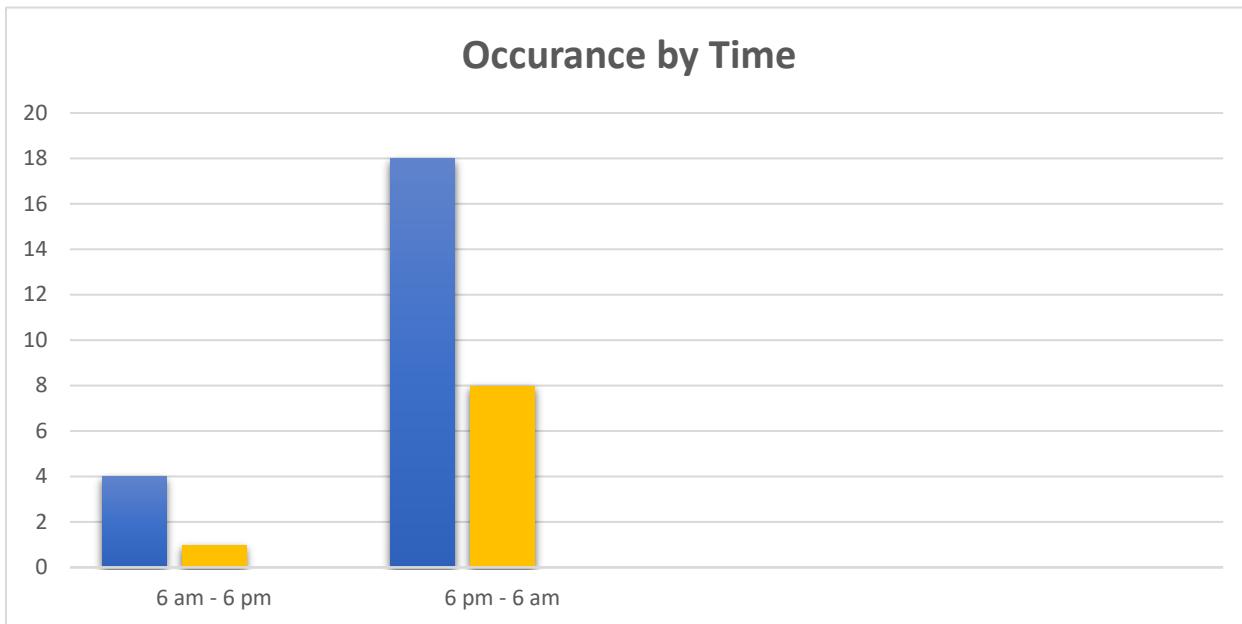
As expected, individuals holding the rank of officer consistently account for the majority of our force used.

The number of members in supervisory ranks (Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, and Lieutenant) continues to be small but relatively consistent. They most frequently assist officers on patrol calls.



## DATE AND TIME RESPONSE

To conduct our analysis of the date and time of the offense, we collated data into several different formats. When looking at the time of the day, the majority occur between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

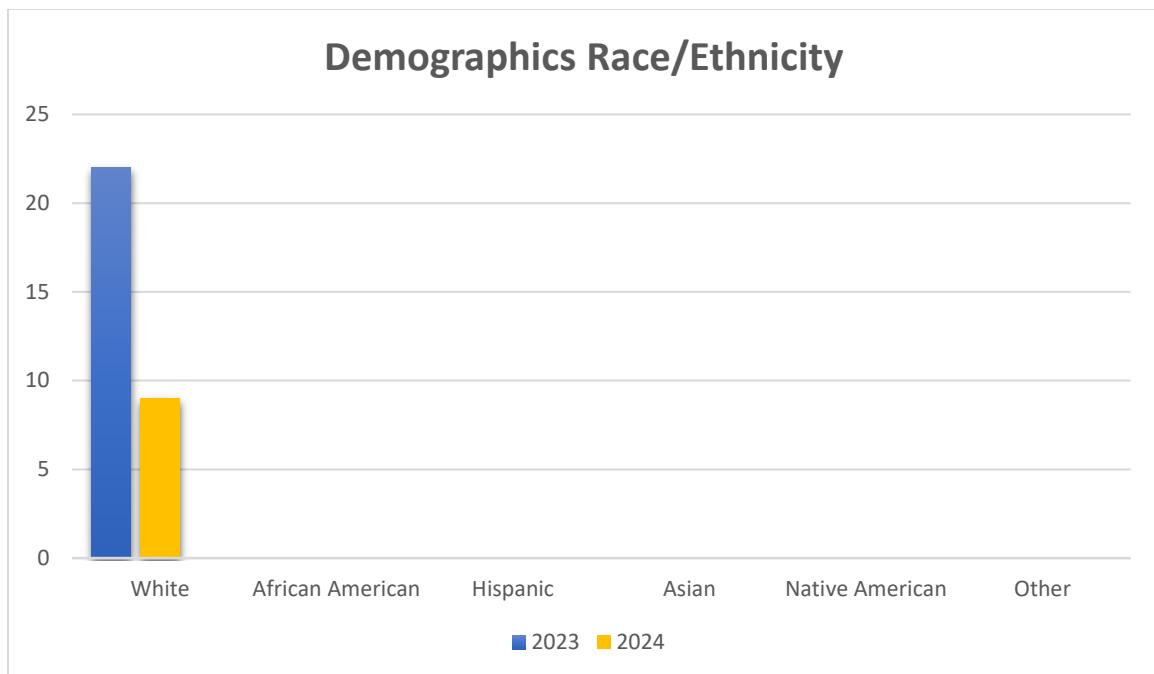


## DEMOGRAPHICS

Officers responded to a situation involving 3 white males and 6 white females who were exhibiting resistance.

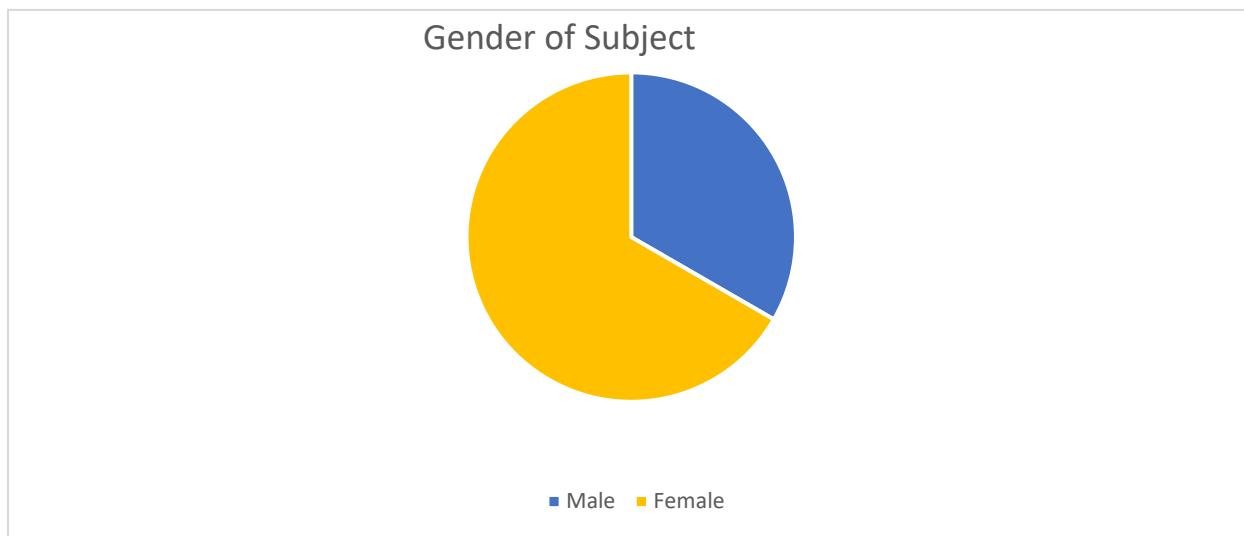
## RACE

All 9 responses to resistance were white (Caucasian) subjects.



## GENDER

Officers responded to resistance with 6 female and 3 male subjects across the 9 incidents.



## AVERAGE AGE

The average age for the response to resistance was 43 years old.

## LEVELS OF RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE USED

Officers have multiple options available to them depending on the level of resistance encountered. There were 9 incident reports from officers who used force in 6 incidents that occurred during 2024. This chart demonstrates the highest level of force used in each incident, by each officer. Overwhelming, our officers continue to utilize soft techniques such as empty hand techniques.

### PHYSICAL CONTROL

During 2024, 4 instances of physical control were used, all incidents as empty hand techniques.

### TASER

A Taser is a handheld Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) that fires two small probes designed to penetrate the skin or clothing of a suspect who is resisting, fleeing, or combative. Generally, there are no long-term side effects associated with Taser use on individuals. Each year, officers receive refresher training and must demonstrate their proficiency in using a Taser.

- In 2024, there were two instances of Taser discharges.

### OTHER LESS LETHAL WEAPONS

The Lago Vista Police Department offers several less-lethal options for its officers, including oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray and batons. Every year, each officer undergoes refresher training and must demonstrate proficiency with all less-lethal tools they are authorized to carry.

This year, there were no deployments of the less-lethal shotgun or the OC spray.

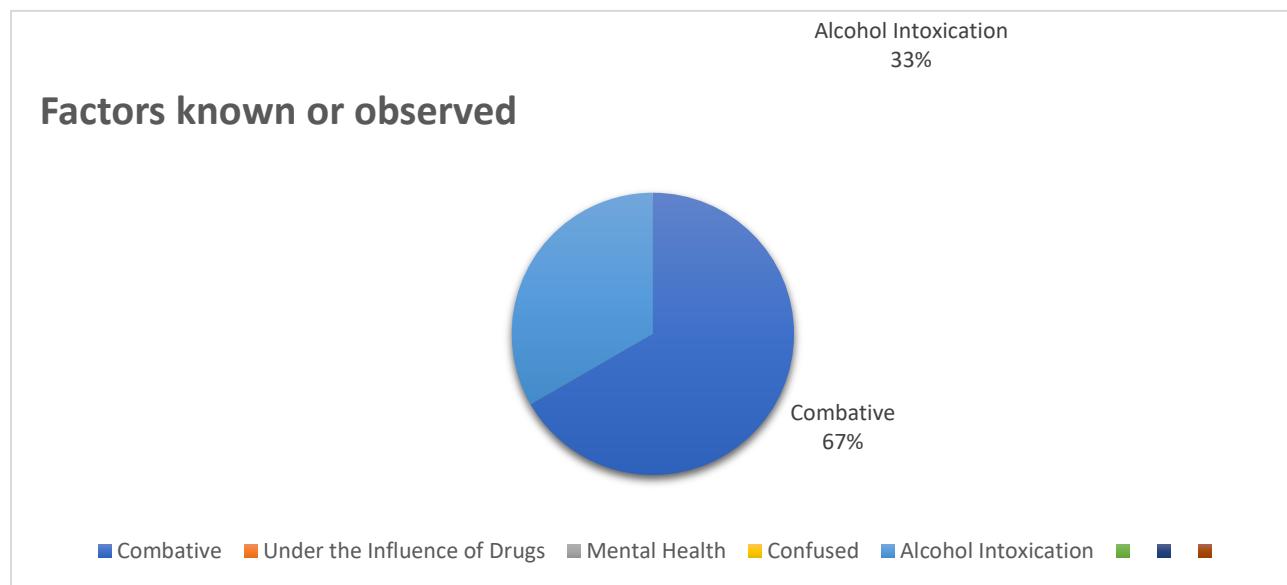
### FIREARMS

The Lago Police Department issues Glock 45 Gen 5 handguns as our primary duty weapons. Officers are authorized to carry patrol rifles after completing the necessary training and qualifying for their use. At least once a year, each officer undergoes refresher training and must demonstrate proficiency for each of these lethal options.

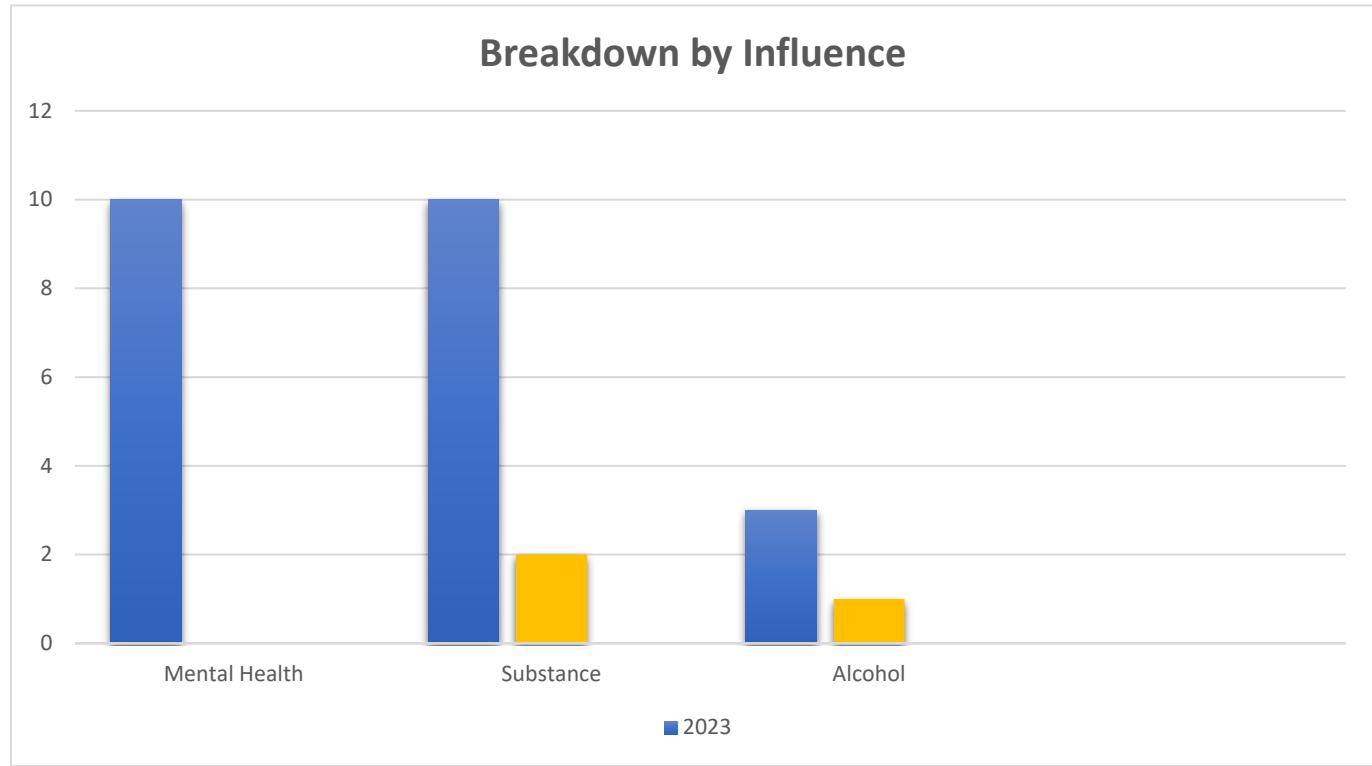
- This year, there were no firearm discharges.
- However, We had 3 firearms displayed during responses to resistance.

## CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

The Lago Vista Police Department finds value in determining what contributing factors are present during our response to resistance. This assists us when developing training specific to our community needs.



Substance abuse continues to be a significant factor in our response to resistance incidents

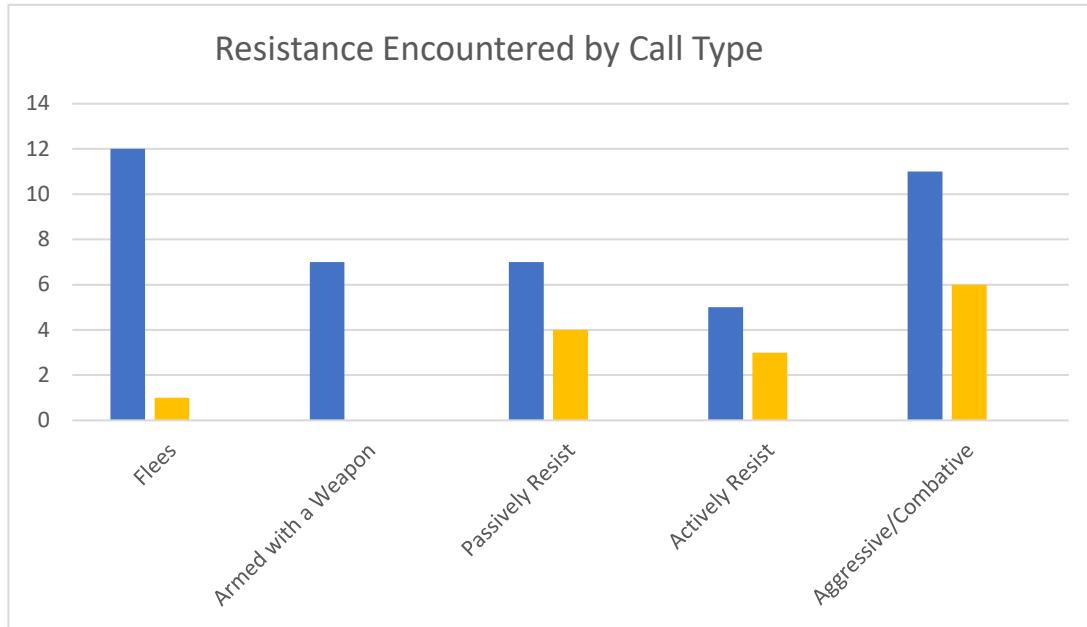


Prior history of mental health, family violence, or substance use is not noted, tracked, or

included. We believe in only tracking these factors when we can articulate their presence or influence when we respond to resistance.

## **TYPES OF ENCOUNTERS**

The Lago Vista Police Department continued monitoring the levels of resistance that officers encounter in response to resistance incidents.



## **CITIZEN AND INTERNAL COMPLAINTS**

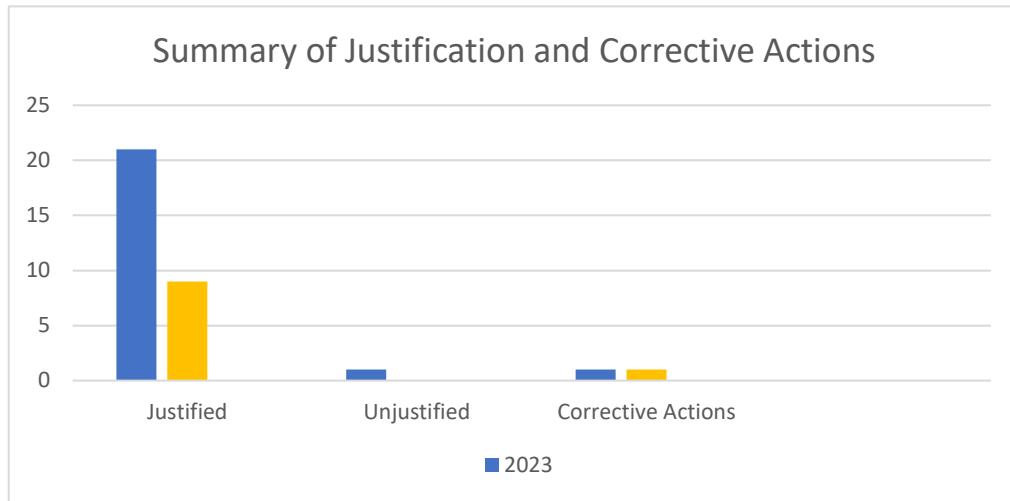
In compliance with state and accreditation requirements, we provide multiple avenues through which an individual can file a complaint regarding officer activity. Additionally, we have specific policies to ensure complaints regarding officer's force are captured and reviewed.

During 2024, the department received no citizen-generated or internally generated complaints of unnecessary or inappropriate use of force.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

The internal review process rules on whether the force officers use in each incident is justified or not. Additionally, corrective actions may be identified for any number of involved officers or supervisors. In an effort to consistently remain transparent and open regarding our processes, both pieces of data are reported.

The review process uncovered items promoting correction for the actions of 1 officer. Some of those individuals were involved in situations where the force applied was justified, but there were other issues, not related to the application of actual force used, that were discovered during the review.



## CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The Lago Vista Police Department tracks corrective actions taken to identify trends or problem areas. This allows us to leverage our required training hours and maximize the ability to keep our workforce safe.

It is important to note that increases in corrective actions are not inherently negative indications. Identifying issues demonstrate supervisory oversight, high standards of accountability, and commitment to the principle that we can always be better.

This year the problems identified were minor with corrective action taken. Over the last year, de-escalation and communication training have been the most prompt corrections. When safe to do so, officers have specific requirements for communication and de-escalation, as discussed by policy and training. When officers do not de-escalate or communicate appropriately, the reviewers attempt to determine if there was time to do so safely.

## INJURIES – OFFICERS AND SUSPECT

This year, we evaluated the types of injuries that occurred to officers as well as suspects. This year, there were no injuries to our officers. There was one listed injury during resisting calls listed a complaint of pain and transported to the Emergency Room.

There were no fatal injuries sustained by suspects.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### POLICY, PRACTICES, EQUIPMENT, AND TRAINING

After reviewing the data for 2024, the department's administration recommends refresher training for officers on completing response to resistance reporting and ensuring that all observations are documented. While we do not believe this is an issue, it is proactive to conduct such refreshers periodically.

This year, we continue to respond to the majority of situations with empty-hand techniques. The Training Division recommends we continue to conduct mandatory arrest and control tactics training and less lethal training for the entire Department. We believe this will ensure we continue to respond reasonably while limiting injury and risk to our officers as well as suspects.

## SUMMARY

This analysis was conducted to review the Lago Vista Police Department's response to resistance for the 2024 calendar year. The department is committed to providing effective and efficient police services while minimizing the adverse impact on our citizens.

The Lago Vista Police Department is dedicated to protecting the rights of all individuals and responding to resistance only when necessary, and to the extent required to achieve legal objectives. This analysis aims to identify methods for reducing the number of incidents and the associated risk of injury. Officers receive training to use only the level of force necessary to bring a person under control and complete the legal objective.

However, police and citizen encounters can change rapidly, and officers may need to react quickly when responding to resistance to subdue a non-compliant subject. While officers prefer to escalate their response to resistance in a controlled manner and use

the lowest level of force possible, a subject's actions may limit their options and compel officers to employ whatever means are immediately available to protect themselves and the public.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Boshears".

02/05/2025

**Gary A. Boshears, M. P. A., PGCSL, LCC**  
**Chief of Police, Lago Vista Police Department**