



Founded in 1999, the Omaha Police Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to promote and strengthen the Omaha Police Department and help ensure it has highly qualified officers with the training, equipment and technology to prevent crime, save lives and make Omaha a safer community.

D.C. “Woody” Bradford is current board president, with Ruth Ann Popp serving as Vice President and Leonard Sommer as Treasurer. There are 12 additional civic leaders serving on the board, with Chief Todd Schmaderer serving as a non-voting, ex-officio director.

The OPF has been fortunate to have the support of many of Omaha’s outstanding citizens and corporate partners over the years. This year, we are proud to have Cindy and Scott Heider serving as Honorary Co-Chairs of the 2025 Officer of the Year Awards Luncheon.

Over the past 26 years, the Omaha Police Foundation has provided more than \$9 million in funding for Omaha Police Department projects in the categories of equipment acquisition, recruitment and training, community outreach and officer/family services. These include:

Realtime Operations Center (ROC): Raised \$120,000 to enhance the ROC through a mobile camera trailer and camera upgrades in the Riverfront area. This technologically advanced initiative makes it possible for officers to respond more effectively and efficiently to calls in high traffic and public areas.

Officer Recruitment: Secured \$50,000 for advertising costs in support of the 2024 recruitment campaign resulting in a 42% increase in new recruit applicants.

Co-Responder Program: Provided support for the OPD Co-Responder Unit as they hosted the National Co-Responder Conference in June 2024. More than 800 mental health professionals from throughout the U.S. attended the four-day event at the Omaha’s convention center.

Photography/Videography Unit: Raised \$50,000 to provide support for one of OPD’s newest units. These funds helped strengthen department communications by purchasing equipment that can provide images and video for critical incident briefings, recruitment materials and other in-house productions.

Law Enforcement Wellness: Provided ongoing support for the OPD STRONG initiative which held two fitness

assessment events in 2024. In addition, new weightlifting and gym equipment was purchased and installed at the Southeast Precinct to encourage officers to maintain their fitness and wellbeing.

Crime Prevention Programs: Helping OPD strengthen police-community relations through the support of a wide range of events and activities including monthly Precinct Advisory Committee meetings, safety fairs, seasonal events and citizen academies.

K9 Unit: Supported expenses related to a Patrol K9 Seminar held at the Omaha Police Training Academy in October 2024. Fifty-nine officers representing 19 agencies from across Nebraska and Iowa attended workshops presented by National K9 Trainer Carlos Ramirez.



2024 Scholarship Awardees

Since 2018, OPF has been awarding annual scholarships that honor Dr. Jack K. Lewis, a well-known community volunteer who served as President of the Omaha Police Foundation for more than ten years. The Dr. Jack K. Lewis Memorial Scholarship supports post-secondary education for children or grandchildren of active or retired Omaha police officers.

Over the past seven years, the Omaha Police Foundation has presented more than \$40,000 in scholarship funds to students studying in a variety of fields. The Foundation is currently working to endow a fund to provide support for these scholarships in perpetuity.