



Omaha Police Foundation 2026 Funding Needs

Health & Wellness for OPD Officers

The Omaha Police Foundation provides ongoing support for a variety of programs and initiatives that offer the OPD officers opportunities to maintain and improve their personal health and wellness. Examples include gym equipment located at each precinct and at headquarters, semi-annual fitness and wellness measurement events with an opportunity to earn additional PTO, the creation of a Zen Den for mental health wellness at the Northeast Precinct. *A donation of any amount would provide support for this ongoing initiative.*

Horses of Honor – Refurbishment of Horse at Headquarters

Horses of Honor Omaha debuted in Turner Park in May 2016. This inspiring public art installation featured seven life-sized statues of mounted patrol unit horses commemorating and honoring the fallen heroes of the Omaha Police Department.

After the initial display the horses were purchased by corporate sponsors with several of them donated back to the Omaha Police Department. The horse honoring Officer Gregory K. Hamill who contracted a deadly virus in the line of duty was installed on the plaza at police headquarters. After 10 years of enduring the elements, Officer Hamill's memorial horse is in desperate need of repair and refurbishment. *Based on the previous restoration of the Ty Pratt Horse in 2025, the cost for restoration and refurbishment of the Officer Hamill horse would cost \$6,000*

Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership Academy

The Academy is a proposed 24-month pilot program housed in UNO's College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS). This 11-month intensive leadership development initiative is designed to strengthen leadership capacity, improve talent retention, and build a more resilient pipeline of future leaders across the Omaha metro's public safety community.

The Academy will bring together a multi-agency cohort consisting of emerging and current leaders from law enforcement, corrections, probation, and related public safety agencies. Participants will engage in 10 full-day sessions led by UNO faculty, subject-matter experts, and experienced practitioners, with coursework covering leadership, communication, ethics, media relations, problem-solving, and change management. Each participant will complete an applied project that directly benefits their agency and the broader community.

This initiative is a priority for the Omaha Police Department to enhance the leadership skills of top officers with command potential. This type of program would provide incentive for growth while helping to retain top talent within the Omaha Police Department. *An investment of \$100,000 would support the full 24-month pilot.*

Officers & Families in Time of Crisis

The Omaha Police Foundation has a long-standing commitment to providing support for those officers and their families who encounter a disaster or other emergency. In the past, this has included everything from Omaha law enforcement families who lost their homes in weather disasters to officers who have been wounded in the line of duty.

These support payments are intended to cover unexpected expenses and to help Omaha Police Officers and their immediate families recover and move forward after a crisis. After a series of recent officer-involved shootings and weather-related disasters, the current fund for these purposes is depleted. *A donation of \$10,000 - \$15,000 would replenish this fund for the foreseeable future.*

Police Athletics for Community Engagement (P.A.C.E.)

P.A.C.E. provides free athletic opportunities for at-risk and economically disadvantaged youth. This important initiative also emphasizes the importance of education along with an anti-gang message. The goal is to build stronger relationships between neighborhoods and the officers that patrol those communities one family – one child – at a time.

P.A.C.E. aims to develop leadership skills by teaching kids how to be responsible for their teams. They learn important life skills such as punctuality, organized practice and leading by example. Many older participants return to the program to coach and mentor younger siblings or neighborhood kids, passing on their knowledge and fostering a sense of community.

More than 2,500 youth will participate in a wide range of programs in 2026. In addition to its most successful program with soccer, P.A.C.E. offers basketball, baseball, chess, mountain biking, flag football, Jiu Jitsu, golf, and volleyball. *A donation of any amount would provide support for this ongoing initiative.*

Real-Time Operations Center (ROC) Camera Trailer

The OPD ROC is a vital force multiplier, leveraging live feeds from Nebraska's first and only Drone as First Responder (DFR) program, city-owned traffic cameras, and on-demand camera access through partnerships with local businesses and organizations. In 2025 alone, the ROC assisted with 3,856 calls for service resulting in 91 arrests. The ROC further provided virtual overwatch/backup using real-time camera assets for 11,468 calls, allowing ROC staff to cancel 462 OPD cruisers for incidents that no longer posed a public safety threat.

The trailer will have multiple cameras for 24/7 live streaming into the ROC and recording. OPD will supplement a ROC camera trailer purchased through the Omaha Police Foundation in 2024 which has been used extensively. Adding a second trailer will allow for simultaneous deployments and improve operational readiness. *The Omaha Police Department is requesting a donation of \$50,000 to purchase one (1) mobile camera trailer and accessories for deployment during critical incidents and at crime hotspots.*

Recruitment & Retention

The 2025 Omaha Police Department (OPD) Recruitment Campaign expanded awareness, strengthened community connections and attracted a larger and more diverse pool of applicants. Strategies included direct outreach through local events and presentations, enhanced digital engagement with targeted advertising and social media, and increased public visibility through traditional and community-based media. In addition, the City of Omaha Human Resources, the Mayor's Office, and the Police Department collaborated to implement a year-round application process and semi-annual applicant testing.

The most recent recruitment campaign resulted in a total of **1,497 applicants** between January 1 and September 2, 2025, the deadline for inclusion in the Summer 2026 academy. This represents a **149% increase in applicants** compared to the 2024 recruitment campaign (601 applicants). There have been an additional 274 applicants between September 3 and December 8, 2025, for a year-end total of nearly 1,800 applicants.

With the new year-round application process, the Omaha Police Department is hoping to continue to capitalize and build on this success. *A donation of \$50,000 would cover the cost of one three-month recruitment campaign. A donation of \$100,000 would enable the OPD to engage in a year-round recruitment campaign.*

UPB Radar Trailers

Omaha saw 37 traffic fatalities in 2025 and six (6) fatalities year-to-date in 2026. OPD works with the City Public Works Department and other stakeholders as part of the larger Vision Zero Omaha action plan to achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2045.

The UPB radar trailers will measure vehicle speeds in known hotspots and help educate the public about speeding and road safety. *OPD is requesting a donation of \$10,000 to purchase one (1) UPB Radar Trailer – or up to \$50,000 to purchase all five (5) mobile radar trailers—one for deployment in each precinct – to advance the goals of Vision Zero.*