

Lewisville Police Department



Annual Vehicle Pursuit Report 2024

Created by John Flores-Hidones

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brook Rollins".

Brook Rollins

Chief of Police

Lewisville Police Department

Table of Contents

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Executive Summary.....	1
Definitions.....	2
Reporting Requirements.....	3
Reporting Vehicle Pursuits.....	3
Data Collection.....	3
Findings.....	3
Vehicle Pursuit Data.....	3
Individual Officer Analysis.....	4
Reasons for Vehicle Pursuits.....	7
Results of Vehicle Pursuits.....	5
Recommendations and Conclusion.....	6

Figure 1. Vehicle Pursuit per Year..... 4

Figure 2. Policy Violations by Type..... 5

Figure 3. Reasons for Vehicle Pursuits..... 6

Executive Summary

The Lewisville Police Department takes its obligation seriously to provide the most effective and efficient police service while ensuring employee and community safety. Law enforcement is a particularly dangerous occupation and while many of our activities are fraught with risks, employees must take all safety measures to drive with due regard for public safety; especially while operating a vehicle in an emergency, or when pursuing a suspect's vehicle.

The Department's Annual Vehicle Pursuit report was created to evaluate all vehicle pursuit data reported during the calendar year. It provides an analysis of the reasons for the pursuits, the employees involved, and the result of the pursuits. This report is completed annually, in compliance with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices 7.14 – Pursuit Documentation, as part of the Recognition Program.

This report covered three major areas: an analysis of all vehicle pursuits reported in 2024, the frequency of vehicle pursuits per employee, and highlights of the results from these pursuits (including injuries, damages, or other significant events). This annual analysis is not intended to determine if an employee acted inappropriately, but instead to identify department-wide trends that may suggest changes in policy, training, equipment, or manner of supervision.

Overall, there were 45 events that resulted in vehicle pursuits in 2024. These events involved 133 officer engagements, with 24 of them resulting in one or more policy violations. The total number of policy violations was identified at 29. The most frequent reason for vehicle pursuits was due to a suspected DWI, followed by a Flock identification of a stolen vehicle and/or an officer sighting of a suspected stolen vehicle. Flock hits were the third most common factor for initiating vehicle pursuits in 2024.

The most common violation was excessive speed in residential areas, followed by intersection violations. It is recommended officers review vehicle pursuit policies, at least monthly, since policy updates/changes may be implemented by Command Staff throughout the year. It is also recommended to implement a mandatory remediation class for those that incur vehicle pursuit violations, in addition to the discipline they receive.

Definitions

Vehicle Pursuit: A vehicle pursuit is an active attempt by a law enforcement officer to apprehend one or more occupants of a moving vehicle; providing the driver of such vehicle is aware of the attempt and is resisting apprehension by maintaining or increasing his speed, by ignoring the officer's attempt to stop them, or by taking evasive action.

Code 1: It is normal driving on standard patrol and while responding to non-emergency calls for service. Officers are to obey all traffic laws and drive courteously. The use of emergency lights and sirens is not authorized.

Code 3: It is the use of emergency lights and sirens to respond to emergencies as safely and as quickly as possible. Emergency lights must be operated continuously. Sirens may be deactivated if there are no hazards present or when it is necessary to travel silently in order not to alert a suspect or endanger lives. Code 3 is not authorized without appropriate emergency equipment.

Controlling Supervisor: In most cases, the controlling supervisor will be the pursuing officer's supervisor or Watch Commander. This supervisor has the responsibility of monitoring vehicle pursuits and ensuring that all inter-departmental pursuit policy agreements are followed. This agreement for North Texas Law Enforcement agencies limits the number of vehicles involved in a pursuit to three.

Support Unit Operator: This unit has back-up responsibilities to the primary unit. It will stay at a safe distance from the primary unit to lessen the chance of collision and allow the primary unit room to maneuver. It will assume radio transmission responsibility when actively involved in the pursuit, and assist the primary unit as needed when the pursuit ends.

Safety Review Committee (SRC): Also known as ***Safety Review Board (SRB)***, this committee is composed of members from the Lewisville Police Department and City stakeholders. They are responsible for reviewing all vehicle pursuits initiated by an employee. This is to ensure the employees' actions were appropriate and within policy guidelines.

Reporting Requirements

Reporting Vehicle Pursuits

Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices 7.14 and Lewisville Police Department General Orders 4.8.II.E.5 require a written report to be completed anytime and officer pursues a vehicle. Per Lewisville PD policy, when a pursuit is concluded, a Vehicular Pursuit Report will be completed by every officer involved and the reports will be forwarded, through the chain of command, to the Chief. The report will be reviewed by Command Staff and used by the Safety Review Committee (SRC) to assess training needs and policy revision. If a policy violation is noted, Command staff will determine the appropriate discipline for the employee or refer the matter to a Discipline Board. Employees may receive additional training, or in some cases, discipline all the way up to employment termination.

Data Collection

All data and metrics were collected from vehicle pursuits documented in Axon Standards for events that took place in 2024. There were multiple officer engagements associated with most events. The data analysis focused on five major components: an analysis of vehicle pursuit data, individual officer analysis, reasons for the pursuit, pursuit termination, and policy violations.

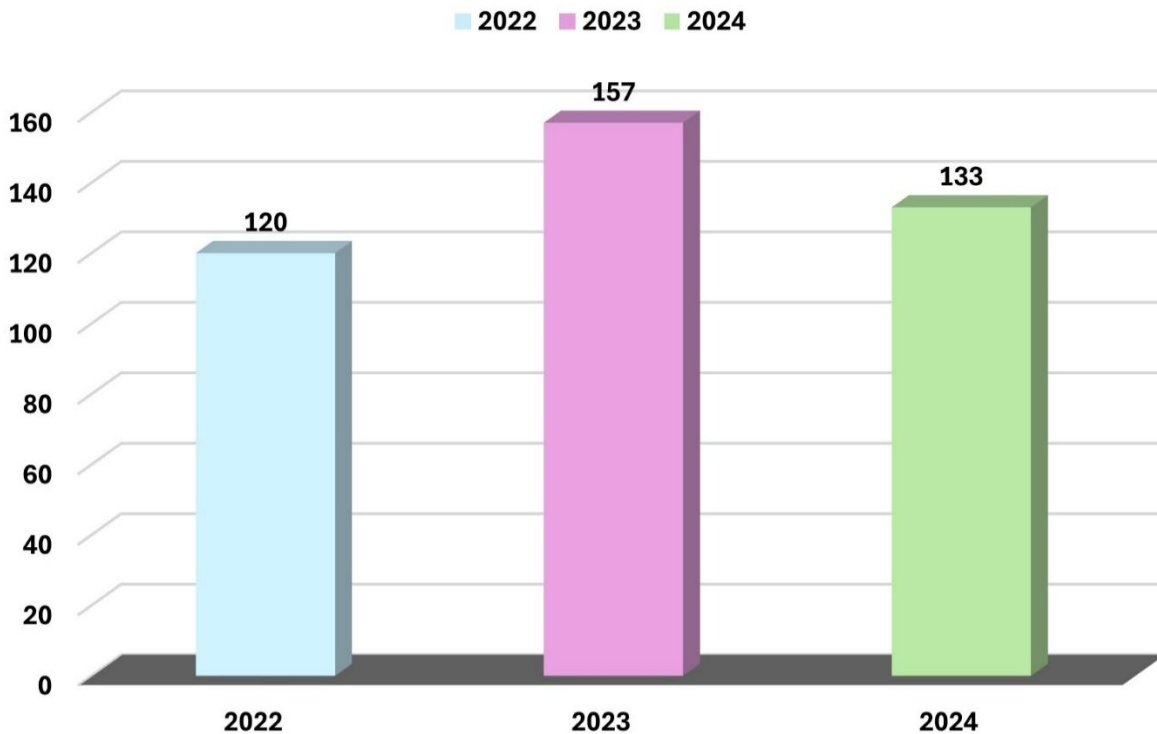
Findings

Vehicle Pursuit Data

The Lewisville Police Department reported 46 events related to vehicle pursuits in 2024. These events involved 133 officer engagements, including those made by supervisors. This represented a 15% decrease in officer involvement, when compared to 2023 (157). The frequency of policy violations, per event, increased slightly from 25.93% in 2023 to 26.67% in 2024 (12 of 45). All vehicle pursuit reports were reviewed by the Safety Review Committee (SRC) and Command Staff to determine if the actions of each officer were in alignment with policy, training, best practices, industry standards, and relevant law. The SRC found no policy violations in 109 reports for vehicle pursuits but found some policy violations in the remaining 24. The rate of policy violations per officer involvement increased slightly from 17% in 2023 to 18% in 2024.

The Flock Safety ALPR camera system continues to successfully assist Lewisville PD officers in locating stolen vehicles, and as such, it may have contributed to an initial increase of vehicle pursuits in 2022 and 2023, while leveling off in 2024. The following bar graph (Figure 1) shows a year-by-year comparison of officers involved in a vehicle pursuit in the last three years.

Figure 1. Vehicle Pursuits per Year



Individual Officer Analysis

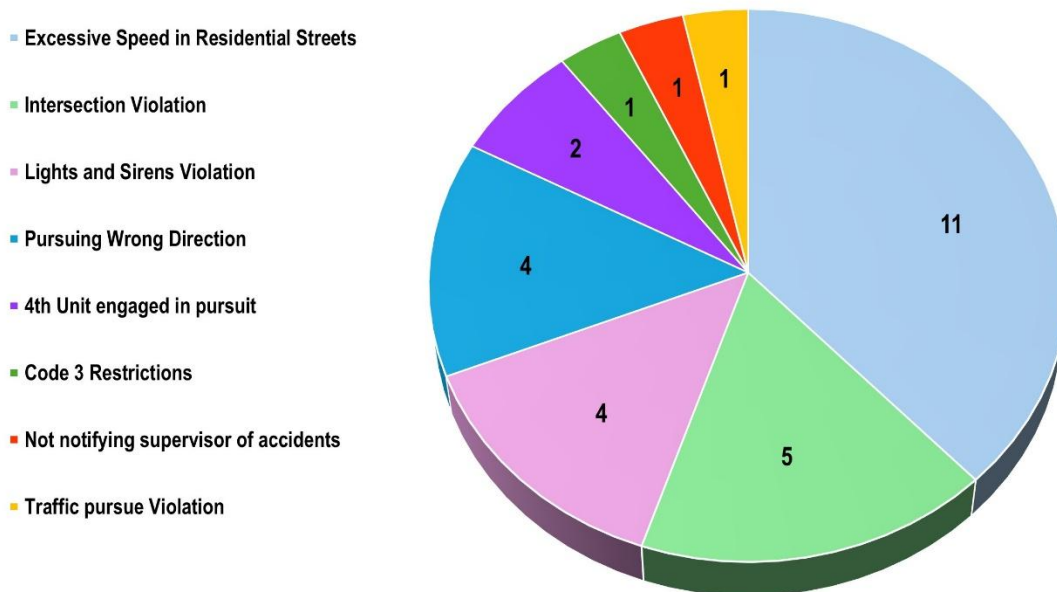
In 2024, the SRC and Command Staff identified 24 vehicle pursuit reports with policy violations. Of those, two (2) had at least three violations each, and 15 resulted in no disciplinary action, due to the totality of the circumstances associated with the vehicle pursuit. Of the 29 policy violations reviewed by SRC and Command Staff, the most frequent was exceeding speed in residential areas (38%), followed by intersection violations (17%), and light and sirens violations (14%).

A total of 19 officers were involved in vehicle pursuits that resulted in policy violations in 2024. Of those, one officer had five violations, one for pursuing a vehicle going the wrong direction, one

for lights and sirens violations, two for intersection violations, and one for excessive speed in residential areas. One other officer had four policy violations. Most of them were related to excessive speed in residential areas. The pie chart below (Figure 2) shows a breakdown of all policy violations that were identified in 2024 during vehicle pursuits.

Some other policy violations involved code 3 restrictions violations, 4th unit engaged in a pursuit, not notifying a supervisor after being in an accident, traffic pursue violations, and pursuing a vehicle going the wrong direction.

Figure 2. Policy Violations by Type

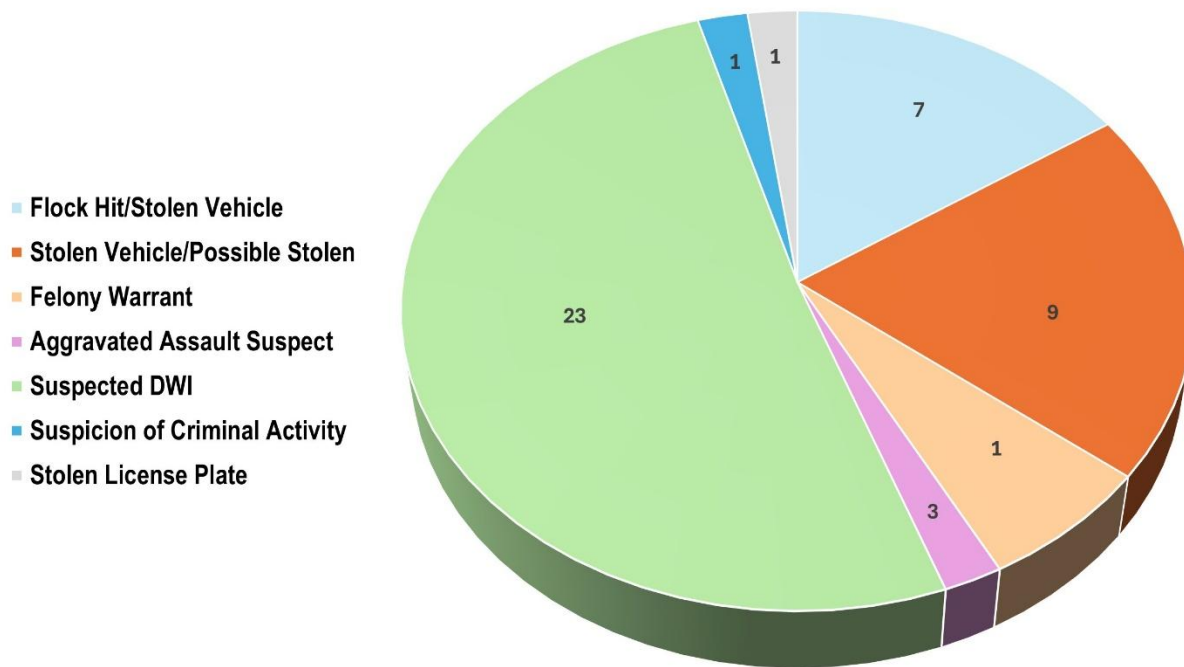


Reasons for Vehicle Pursuits

The Lewisville Police Department General Orders state that officers may only pursue vehicles for felony offenses or suspicion of intoxicated drivers. Of the 45 events related to vehicle pursuits, the most frequent reason was for Suspected DWI (51%), followed by sightings/identification of a stolen vehicle (25%) while on patrol, and Flock hits on stolen vehicles (16%).

Some other reasons for a vehicle pursuit involved suspicion of felonious criminal activity, felony warrants, and one for aggravated assault. The pie chart below (Figure 3) shows a breakdown of all reasons for vehicle pursuits reported in 2024.

Figure 3. Reasons for Vehicle Pursuits



Recommendations and Conclusion

Compared to 2023, there was a slight decrease in policy violations in 2024 (from 30 to 29). The most common policy violation was excessive speed in residential areas and intersection violations. These violations were all related to the officer’s speed and control of the vehicle when engaging in a vehicle pursuit. All sworn personnel at the Lewisville Police Department are now required to review General Orders 4.08 Emergency Operations multiple times throughout the year. Additionally, watch commanders are continuing to conduct briefing trainings on this General Order, to mitigate future violations.

- It is recommended officers review vehicle pursuit policies at least monthly, since policy updates/changes may be implemented by Command Staff throughout the year.
- It is recommended to increase briefings from watch commanders on vehicle pursuit policies, while providing examples of prior violations to explain how updated policies may impact the way General Orders 4.08 is implemented from that point on.
- It is also recommended to implement a mandatory remediation class for those that incur in vehicle pursuit violations, in addition to the discipline they receive.