

2026

Use of Force

Quarterly Report

1st Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2026

Albany Police Department



Report prepared by: Accreditation Manager Merab Smith and the APD Use of Force Instructors and Trainers

Introduction

This report marks the first quarterly review of Use of Force incidents for the Albany Police Department in 2026. Quarterly reports serve as a valuable resource for supervisors and training coordinators, providing insights into use of force incidents. The Albany Police Department began compiling quarterly use of force data in January 2020, allowing for a comparative analysis of the past three years. This report examines trends and patterns that may indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, or policy modifications.

The first quarter data covers the period from January 1 to March 31, 2026. During this time, there were 34 use of force incidents (defined by a case number), involving 79 applications of force on 34 subjects. The total number of force applications exceeds the number of incidents, as officers may utilize multiple techniques when initial attempts prove ineffective. Additionally, when multiple officers are involved, each use of force is counted individually for each subject.

Whenever possible, officers employ de minimis force, which is defined as physical interaction used to separate, guide, or control without formal control techniques or actions likely to cause pain or injury. Use of force incidents require notification and reporting whenever physical force, excluding de minimis force, is applied.

Classification of Initiating Call

The following summary highlights the types of calls that led to use of force incidents by the Albany Police Department. Given the extensive range of call types, this data has been consolidated into eight categories.

During the annual Use of Force meeting in February 2024, the team determined that it would be beneficial to separate the *Assist Other Agency/Warrant* category into two distinct classifications: *Assist Other Agency* and *Wanted Person/Warrant*.

Classification of Initiating Call	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
Fight or Disturbance	13	33.3%	8	20.5%	5	14.7%
Assist Other Agency	2	5.1%	3	7.7%	3	8.8%
Wanted Person/Warrant	4	10.3%	7	17.9%	8	23.5%
Traffic	4	10.3%	3	7.7%	6	17.6%
Property Crime	6	15.4%	4	10.3%	1	2.9%
Mental Health or Suicidal	3	7.7%	0	0.0%	2	5.9%
Drug Related	1	2.6%	1	2.6%	1	2.9%
Other	6	15.4%	13	33.3%	8	23.5%
Total Responses	39	100.0%	39	100.0%	34	100.0%

Fight or Disturbance: Assault, Disorderly Conduct, Disturbance, Interfering, Resisting Arrest, Domestic, Harassment, Menacing, Weapons.

Assist Other Agency: Assist Outside Agency.

Wanted Person/Warrant: Warrants served by our department, Wanted Persons.

Traffic: Traffic Crime, DUII, Pursuit, Elude, Hit & Run, Careless Driving.

Property Crime: Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief, Vandalism, Fraud, Shoplifting, Stolen or Recovered Vehicle.

Mental Health or Suicidal: Emotionally Disturbed Person, Suicidal Subject, Police Officer Hold, Welfare Check.

Drug Related: Narcotics warrant or any other incident where drugs were a primary causal factor.

Other: Miscellaneous Crime, Public Indecency, Trespass, Curfew, Exclusion, Restraining Order Violation, Sex Offense, Runaway, Suspicious Person, Suspicious Circumstances, Reckless Endangering, MIP, Robbery, Animal Complaints, Person Stop, Transient Complaint.

Breakdown and Comparison of Subjects by Gender, Age, and Race

Perceived Gender	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
Male	27	69.2%	29	72.5%	28	82.4%
Female	12	30.8%	11	27.5%	6	17.6%
Total	39	100.0%	40	100.0%	34	100.0%

Age	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
17 and Younger	0	0.0%	3	7.5%	1	2.9%
18 - 20	2	5.1%	1	2.5%	0	0.0%
21 - 30	14	35.9%	6	15.0%	10	29.4%
31 - 40	8	20.5%	12	30.0%	12	35.3%
41 - 50	11	28.2%	8	20.0%	7	20.6%
51 - 60	0	0.0%	8	20.0%	2	5.9%
61 and Older	4	10.3%	2	5.0%	2	5.9%
Total	39	100.0%	40	100.0%	34	100.0%

Perceived Race	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
White	36	92.3%	35	87.5%	24	70.6%
Black	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	8.8%
Hispanic	3	7.7%	4	10.0%	6	17.6%
Native American	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asian	0	0.0%	1	2.5%	1	2.9%
Total	39	100.0%	40	100.0%	34	100.0%

Other Factors

Starting in 2021, we began documenting whether use of force incidents involved a perceived mental health crisis and whether the subject was believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, based on officers' observations. The "Both" category includes individuals who were perceived as experiencing both a mental health crisis and intoxication.

Other Factors	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
Intoxicated	11	28.2%	7	17.5%	12	35.3%
Mental Health Crisis	10	25.6%	10	25.0%	6	17.6%
Both	3	7.7%	6	15.0%	1	2.9%
Subjects Involved in UOF Incident	39	61.5%	40	57.5%	34	55.9%

Day of Week/Time of Day

Analyzing use of force data based on time of day and day of the week helps identify patterns in incident occurrences. This analysis can reveal peak periods when use of force is more frequent, such as during late-night hours or weekends, which may correspond to increased calls related to alcohol use, disturbances, or high-traffic enforcement.

Day of Incident	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
Sunday	5	12.8%	9	23.1%	6	17.6%
Monday	3	7.7%	3	7.7%	4	11.8%
Tuesday	5	12.8%	3	7.7%	6	17.6%
Wednesday	8	20.5%	6	15.4%	5	14.7%
Thursday	6	15.4%	5	12.8%	4	11.8%
Friday	9	23.1%	8	20.5%	3	8.8%
Saturday	3	7.7%	5	12.8%	6	17.6%
Total	39	100.0%	39	100.0%	34	100.0%

Time of Incident	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
0001 - 0400	9	23.1%	7	17.9%	6	17.6%
0401 - 0800	3	7.7%	3	7.7%	1	2.9%
0801 - 1200	5	12.8%	5	12.8%	4	11.8%
1201 - 1600	4	10.3%	10	25.6%	10	29.4%
1601 - 2000	9	23.1%	8	20.5%	3	8.8%
2001 - 0000	9	23.1%	6	15.4%	10	29.4%
Total	39	100.0%	39	100.0%	34	100.0%

Resistance Encountered

Analyzing use of force data related to the resistance officers encounter provides valuable insight into the dynamics of law enforcement interactions. This data can reveal patterns in resistance types, such as whether certain situations or call types more frequently involve physical resistance. Additionally, it allows departments to assess how officers apply force in response, ensuring that techniques align with best practices and training objectives.

Resistance	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
Active Resistance	39	17.0%	24	14.5%	28	18.2%
Attempt to Escape	22	9.6%	14	8.4%	9	5.8%
Charging	8	3.5%	8	4.8%	4	2.6%
Elude on Foot/Bicycle	13	5.7%	6	3.6%	7	4.5%
Elude Vehicle	2	0.9%	0	0.0%	2	1.3%
Fighting Stance	17	7.4%	12	7.2%	5	3.2%
Firearm - Handgun	3	1.3%	0	0.0%	3	1.9%
Firearm - Rifle	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
Firearm - Shotgun	3	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hand/Elbow Strike	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hiding/Barricaded	5	2.2%	11	6.6%	11	7.1%
High Risk Subject	30	13.1%	24	14.5%	22	14.3%
Impact Weapon	0	0.0%	2	1.2%	0	0.0%
Leg/Knee/Foot Strike	3	1.3%	2	1.2%	1	0.6%
OC Chemical Spray	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	2	0.9%	4	2.4%	3	1.9%
Passive Resistance	10	4.4%	15	9.0%	19	12.3%
Push/Shove/Pull	17	7.4%	14	8.4%	16	10.4%
Stabbing Instrument	11	4.8%	1	0.6%	4	2.6%
Suicidal	6	2.6%	1	0.6%	2	1.3%
Verbally Aggressive	37	16.2%	28	16.9%	17	11.0%
Total	229	100.0%	166	100.0%	154	100.0%

Type of Force Used

This data helps determine whether force applications align with training and policy guidelines while also revealing opportunities for improvement in tactics, equipment, or de-escalation strategies. Additionally, training plays a significant role in shaping force application patterns. When officers receive focused training in specific techniques or tactics, the use of those trained methods often increases, while reliance on other forms of force may decrease. Tracking these trends over time allows us to evaluate the effectiveness of our training programs and make informed adjustments to enhance both officer safety and community interactions.

In July 2025, the classifications for K9 use of force were revised to more accurately reflect the type of force applied. The category K9 Display was removed, and a new category, K9 Surrender, was introduced. The updated definitions are as follows:

- **K9 Deploy** - When the K9 handler determines that requisite conditions exist permitting the use of the K9, the K9 handler deploys the K9, and, but for circumstances of the event, the suspect does not surrender because of the K9's presence and the suspect is not bitten.
- **K9 Surrender** - When a K9 is deployed, the suspect is arrested/detained/located, and there is articulable information that BECAUSE OF THE K9'S INVOLVEMENT the suspect surrendered to police custody.
- **K9 Bite** - When a K9 bites a suspect, intentionally or unintentionally.

Type of Force Used - *continued*

Type of Force Used	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
40mm LL Display	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	2	2.5%
40mm LL Fired	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Arm Bar/Takedown	2	1.7%	3	3.6%	4	5.1%
ASP Baton Deploy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ASP Baton Display	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Bent Wrist Lock	9	7.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Rifle Display	5	4.2%	0	0.0%	2	2.5%
Rifle Fired	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Escort Hold	5	4.2%	7	8.4%	9	11.4%
Focused Blow	3	2.5%	1	1.2%	0	0.0%
Hair Hold Takedown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Handgun Display	12	10.1%	9	10.8%	8	10.1%
Handgun Fired	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.5%
K-9 Bite	0	0.0%	1	1.2%	0	0.0%
K-9 Deploy	4	3.4%	1	1.2%	2	2.5%
K-9 Display	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
K-9 Surrender					1	1.3%
Leg Sweep	8	6.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pressure Point	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
O.C. Spray Deploy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
O.C. Spray Display	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	1	0.8%	5	6.0%	2	2.5%
Push/Shove/Pull	20	16.8%	17	20.5%	22	27.8%
Shotgun Display	3	2.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Shoulder Lock	1	0.8%	3	3.6%	1	1.3%
Tackle/Takedown	9	7.6%	16	19.3%	7	8.9%
Taser Deploy	6	5.0%	6	7.2%	2	2.5%
Taser Display	16	13.4%	9	10.8%	15	19.0%
Wrap Restraint	7	5.9%	4	4.8%	0	0.0%
Lateral Recovery Restraint	5	4.2%	1	1.2%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	119	100.0%	83	100.0%	79	100.0%

Total Arrests Versus Total Use of Force Incidents

Arrests vs. Incidents	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Arrests	1,197	1,329	1,300
Use of Force Incidents	39	39	34
Total Percentage	3.3%	2.9%	2.6%

Total Calls for Service Versus Total Use of Force Incidents

Calls for Service vs. Incidents	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Calls for Service	8,713	9,003	8,690
Use of Force Incidents	39	39	34
Total Percentage	0.45%	0.43%	0.39%

Officer Injuries

Officer Injuries During Use of Force	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
No Injury	64	94.1%	57	96.6%	52	92.9%
Minor - No Medical Attention	3	4.4%	2	3.4%	4	7.1%
Minor - Medical Attention	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hospital	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Fatality	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	68	100.0%	59	100.0%	56	100.0%

Other Persons Injured

Person Injuries During Use of Force	Q1 2024		Q1 2025		Q1 2026	
No Injury	37	94.9%	31	77.5%	29	85.3%
Minor - No Medical Attention	1	2.6%	5	12.5%	1	2.9%
Minor - Medical Attention	1	2.6%	4	10.0%	3	8.8%
Hospital	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
Fatality	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	39	100.0%	40	100.0%	34	100.0%