HISTORY OF CITY OF FORT ATKINSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The City of Fort Atkinson has earned an excellent law enforcement reputation in its 120 year history. Records show that it is one of the first departments formed in the community's development. The following is a chronological order of events.

- In 1860, Fort Atkinson became a village and A. E. Jaycox served as the Village Constable.
- The first Constable was head-quartered in a frame building on S. Main St. (Present location of the Wis. Gas and Electric Company.)
- In 1870, a Village Hall was erected on Milwaukee St. East (present location of Arcadia Bowling Alley) and the Police and Fire Departments were located on the ground level.
- The first lock-up was a small brick building located on the present City parking lot at the end of South Water St. West.
- In 1878, Fort Atkinson became a City and provision was made for an elected Chief, Police Marshal, and Night Constable. Henry Woodin was the first elected Chief.
- He was followed by Chiefs Steven Rose, August F. Hausen, George Mason, and Harry Mueller.
- The first police wagon was purchased in 1927.
- In 1929, the present Municipal Building on N. Main St. was completed and the Police Department and Jail were re-located there.
- In 1930, a City Manager form of government was established and the Office of Police Chief and other law enforcement officers became positions of appointment rather than elected.
- Harry Mueller continued as Police Chief.
- In 1939, the first two-way radio was installed.
- In 1940, a Rock River Patrol Boat was acquired.
- In 1949, Edward Schultz was appointed Chief and the Department consisted of eight (8) officers.
- In 1967, the Police Department moved to a separate facility at 100 Edward St. William Ciske was named Chief of Police to succeed Ed Schultz and the Department consisted of twelve (12) officers, two (2) squad cars, a cushman parking enforcement vehicle, and an emergency rescue unit.
- Today, 1979, the Police Department provides 24 hour patrol and dispatch duties, has four (4) fully equipped squad cars, a police boat, and consists of fourteen (14) officers, four(4) dispatchers, and one (1) record co-ordinator.