

OGDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY 01B: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & COMMAND AUTHORITY

Subject Organizational Structure & Command Authority	Effective Date: Dec 30, 2025
Department Police	Replaces Policy Dated: May 2020

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability. It should not be construed as creating a higher standard of safety or care concerning third-party claims. Violations, if proven, form the basis of an internal administrative complaint only.

I. PURPOSE

To identify and define the Ogden Police Department's organizational structure and command authority.

II. POLICY

The Ogden Police Department ("Department") will have a clearly defined organizational structure and chain of command to ensure operational efficiency, establish a hierarchy of supervisory authority, and foster a clear understanding of accountability for all personnel.

III. DEFINITIONS

Chain of Command: The structured line of authority within the Department that defines supervisory relationships and reporting responsibilities. Includes chiefs, captains, lieutenants, and sergeants.

Insubordination: A deliberate refusal or intentional failure by a Department employee to obey an order or directive issued by a supervisor with rank or assigned authority. Includes, but is not limited to, verbal defiance, overt disrespect, or any other act that undermines supervisory authority or the Department's established chain of command.

Unethical Conduct: Any action that violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, Law Enforcement Code of Conduct, or other generally accepted standards of honesty, integrity, fairness, or professionalism of Department personnel. Includes, but is not limited to, misuse of authority, dishonesty, favoritism, discrimination, retaliation, or any other behavior that compromises the credibility or impartiality of the Department or its employees.

IV. PROCEDURE, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

A. Department Organizational Structure

1. The Ogden Police Department is comprised of organizational bodies intended to clearly define the roles, responsibilities, and mission of their assigned personnel. The hierarchy of the department's organizational structure is as follows:
 - a. Divisions
 - b. Bureaus
 - c. Units
 - d. Squads
2. There are three recognized Divisions in the Ogden Police Department, including the Administrative Division, Field Operations Division, and Support Services Division.
3. The divisions of the Ogden Police Department are further sub-organized into bureaus as follows:

Administrative Division
Professional Standards Bureau

Field Operations Division
Community Engagement Bureau
Uniform Bureau

Support Services Division
Area Tactical Analysis Center
Investigations Bureau
Records Bureau
Training and Education Bureau
Weber-Morgan Strike Force

4. Some Ogden Police Department bureaus are further sub-organized into units. Those units are as follows:

Community Engagement Bureau
Community Policing Unit
Community Outreach Unit
Crossing Guard Unit
Traffic Enforcement Unit

Investigations Bureau
Major Crimes Unit
Special Victims Unit

Training and Education Bureau
School Resource Officer Unit
Training Unit

Uniform Bureau
Animal Services Unit
Community Service Officer Unit
Crime Reduction Unit
Evidence Unit
Patrol Unit

Weber-Morgan Strike Force
Ogden-Metro Gang Task Force
Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force

5. The Ogden Police Department's Patrol Unit is further sub-organized into squads as follows:

Patrol Unit
Squad 1
Squad 2
Squad 3
Squad 4
Squad 5
Squad 6
Squad 7

V. PROCEDURE, COMMAND AUTHORITY

A. Chain of Command, Sworn Personnel

1. The Chief of Police is the highest-ranking member of the Ogden Police Department.
2. The Deputy Chief of Police is the next highest-ranking member of the Ogden Police Department. The Deputy Chief of Police reports to the Chief of Police.
3. Police Captains are the next highest-ranking members of the Ogden Police Department. Police Captains report to the Deputy Chief of Police.

4. Police Lieutenants are the next highest-ranking members of the Ogden Police Department. Police Lieutenants report to the captain over the division to which they are assigned.
5. Police Sergeants are the next highest-ranking members of the Ogden Police Department. Police Sergeants report to the lieutenant over the unit or squad to which they are assigned.

B. Civilian Supervisors

1. There is no formal rank or chain of command for civilian supervisors. Instead, civilian supervisors hold supervisory authority over the employees assigned to the bureaus or units for which they have responsibility.
2. The civilian positions at the Ogden Police Department that hold supervisory authority are as follows:
 - a. Animal Services Unit Supervisor (Animal Services Unit)
 - b. Area Tactical Analysis Center Supervisor (ATAC)
 - c. Crossing Guard Unit Supervisor (Crossing Guard Unit)
 - d. Office Administrator
 - e. Police Records Bureau Supervisor (Records Bureau)
3. Civilian supervisors do not have supervisory authority over sworn personnel unless specifically delegated by the Chief of Police for organizational, administrative, or operational purposes.
4. Civilian supervisors report to the sergeant, lieutenant, captain, or chief over the unit or bureau for which they have responsibility.

C. Supervisory Responsibility

1. The Chief and Deputy Chief of Police are responsible for leading, managing, and controlling the personnel and operations of the Department.
2. Police Captains are responsible for leading, managing, and controlling the personnel and operations of their assigned division.
3. Police Lieutenants are responsible for leading, managing, and controlling the personnel and operations of their assigned bureau.
4. Police Sergeants are responsible for leading, managing, and controlling the personnel and operations of their assigned unit.

5. Civilian supervisors are responsible for leading, managing, and controlling the personnel and operations of their assigned bureau or unit.
6. Regardless of assignment, all supervisory personnel are responsible and will be held accountable for the performance and conduct of their assigned personnel. Failure to exercise appropriate command, control, or supervisory oversight may result in remedial or disciplinary action.

D. Succession of Command

1. The Chief of Police maintains command and authority over all Department personnel, both sworn and civilian.
2. In the temporary absence, incapacitation, or unavailability of the Chief of Police, command authority shall transfer to the Deputy Chief of Police.
3. If both the Chief of Police and Deputy Chief of Police are temporarily absent, incapacitated, or unavailable, command authority shall transfer to a Police Captain.
4. If no Police Captain is available to assume command and authority of the Department, that obligation is transferred to a Police Lieutenant.

E. Accountability to Orders or Directives

1. All employees are required to follow orders and directives of their assigned supervisor unless the employee reasonably believes that compliance would:
 - a. violate federal, state, or local law;
 - b. violate department policy;
 - c. constitute unethical conduct;
 - d. create an imminent and unreasonable risk of harm to the employee or another person.
2. All employees are further required to follow the orders and directives of any supervisor holding a higher rank in the chain of command (regardless of whether an immediate, formal, or operational relationship exists) unless the employee reasonably believes that compliance would:
 - a. violate federal, state, or local law;
 - b. violate department policy;
 - c. constitute unethical conduct;
 - d. create an imminent and unreasonable risk of harm to the employee or another person.

3. Failure to comply with an order or directive issued by a qualifying supervisor without cause constitutes insubordination and may result in remedial or disciplinary action.

F. Conflicting Orders or Directives

1. In the event any employee receives conflicting orders or directives from multiple supervisors, the employee shall immediately inform the issuing supervisor of the prior order or directive.
2. If the order or directive remains unchanged after notification, the employee shall follow the most recent order or directive, unless doing so would:
 - a. violate federal, state, or local law;
 - b. violate department policy;
 - c. constitute unethical conduct;
 - d. create an imminent and unreasonable risk of harm to the employee or another person.
3. Employees who follow a conflicting order or directive in compliance with this policy will not be reprimanded or disciplined for doing so.

VI. ACCOUNTABILITY

Any Ogden Police Department employee found to have knowingly, intentionally, or negligently acted in violation of this policy will be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action, up to and including termination, in accordance with the processes outlined in Ogden Police Department Policy 01C: Remedial and Disciplinary Procedure.

VII. FINAL AUTHORITY

The chief of police retains final authority over matters related to organizational structure and command authority. The chief may initiate, modify, or reject any proposed actions at their discretion to ensure that such measures are in the best interest of the department and employees. Decisions by the chief are final, subject to legal and regulatory constraints.