

Hewitt Police Department

2024



Response to Resistance

Analysis

Response to Resistance Analysis for 2024

This analysis was conducted to review the Hewitt Police Department's Response to Resistance for the calendar year 2024. The Hewitt Police Department provides the most effective and efficient police service with the least adverse impact on our citizens. The Hewitt Police Department is committed to protecting the rights of all persons and using force only when and to the extent necessary, to achieve legal objectives. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.10 and to identify methods for reducing the number of incidents and the inherent risks involved.

Officers are trained by the department to use only the level of force necessary to bring a person under control and complete a legal objective. Police/citizen encounters can, however, change instantly and officers may be required to react quickly in using force to subdue a resisting subject. While officers prefer to deescalate their level of force in an orderly manner to use the lowest level possible, the response of a subject may limit that ability and force officers to use whatever level of force is immediately available to protect themselves and the public.

Response to Resistance Reporting Requirements

Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.03 and Hewitt Police Department General Order 6.1 require that officers document any application of force if they have employed any physical force (other than the routine use of handcuffs or use of a firm grip to direct the movements of a subject), used any impact, electrical, or chemical weapons, or pointed or discharged any firearm.

Each Response to Resistance Report is immediately reviewed by the Officer's Supervisor, and through the Chain of Command to the Chief of Police. At the time of the incident, the use of force is reviewed to ensure the use was appropriate and within the guidelines of Department Policy and Law. If the officer used force inappropriately, a departmental investigation is required and the officer may receive additional training or, in some cases, discipline up to and including termination from employment. This analysis is not intended to determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department-wide trends that may suggest changes in policy, training, equipment, or supervision.

Use of Force Comparison 2022/2023/2024

There was a total of forty reported incidents involving response to resistance in 2024, compared to twenty-two in 2023 and twenty-one in 2022 (see chart below). A total of 22610 citizen contacts were made in 2024 (calls for service, arrests, citations, field interviews, and other contacts) which creates an average of only one Response to Resistance for every 565 citizen contacts.

The Response to Resistance incidents are listed below by type, with a comparison to the previous year.

	2022	2023	2024
Total Incidents	21	22	40
Empty hand control	13	13	36
Citizen Painted with ECD laser	1	0	1
Electronic Control Device Displayed	2	1	0
Electronic Control Device Deployed/Drive Stun	1	0	1
Firearm exhibited	1	6	11
Firearm pointed at the Suspect	1	13	9
Handcuff without Arrest	4	2	6
Wrap	0	0	2
Total number of personnel responding to resistance	23	35	66

Individual Officer Use of Force

Each officer's activities and actions were reviewed by the department for appropriateness. While each use of force is reviewed immediately after the event to ensure compliance with department policy and law, patterns of behavior can also indicate the need for additional training or supervision. Officers can have different rates in their response to resistance depending on the time of day they work.

All use-of-force incidents were within department policy in 2024.

Physical Control

In 2024, Hewitt Police Officers used physical control 36 times during 17 incidents they were assigned to deal with.

- 31 Officers used Empty Hand Soft Control with one being Not Effective.
- Five Officers used Empty Hand Hard Control with two Not Effective.

Included in the category are all those incidents requiring only physical force to complete handcuffing or bring a resisting subject under control. If physical control was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported at the highest level used by the officers.

Included in this category are all those instances where simple use of, or issuance of, verbal commands was not sufficient or effective. It includes those instances where officers place their hands on a subject and use more force than simply a strong grip, must forcibly handcuff a person, the use of pressure point control tactics, or other soft hand techniques. This category also includes taking the person to the ground to forcibly handcuff. In 2024, officers handcuffed six suspects without arrest.

Summary of physical control cases by Incident:

1. Two Officers used empty hand soft control on a subject who was having a mental health crisis and was non-compliant. She was taken for a mental health evaluation.
2. One Officer used empty hand soft control for a suspect who had warrants and was resisting arrest.
3. One Officer used empty hand soft control for a DUI that was resisting arrest.
4. One Officer used empty hand soft control to restrain a subject for mental health evaluation who was resisting detainment.
5. One Officer used empty hand soft control to restrain a student from injuring a teacher.
6. One Officer used empty hand soft control to arrest a student who had assaulted a teacher.

7. One Officer used empty hand hard control in an attempt to stop a theft from a store he was working off-duty security for.
8. One Officer used empty hand soft control to restrain a non-compliant subject having a mental health crisis. Subject was taken for a mental health evaluation.
9. One Officer used empty hand soft control to restrain a prisoner while getting her medically cleared. The prisoner was actively assaulting the officer and attempting to flee.
10. Three Officers used empty hand soft control to detain a subject fleeing on a lawnmower.
11. Four Officers used empty hand soft control to detain an intoxicated subject having a mental health crisis. The subject was taken for a mental health evaluation.
12. Two Officers used empty hand soft control to detain a subject who was having a mental health crisis. He was taken for a mental health evaluation.
13. Three Officers used empty hand soft control to effect an arrest on a Felony Warrant.
14. One Officer used empty hand soft control for a special needs student actively assaulting teachers and attempting to leave the school.
15. Two Officers used empty hand soft control to handcuff a suspect who pulled away. The suspect also attempted to put narcotics in his mouth to conceal.
16. Two Officers used empty hand soft control to detain a subject for a mental health evaluation. The subject was having a mental health crisis and became combative when she believed she was being arrested.
17. Four Officers used empty hand soft control to arrest a suspect for violation of a protective order. The subject resisted arrest refusing to exit his vehicle and comply with officers.

Wrap

The wrap was used two times in 2024.

The WRAP is a temporary restraining device that immobilizes a subject's body and restricts the subject's ability to kick or do harm. The WRAP increases officers' safety and reduces the risk of liability due to injuries and in-custody deaths. The WRAP minimizes the time required to secure a subject safely and prepare the subject for transport.

- One Officer utilized the wrap to arrest a suspect for public intoxication who was combative.
- One officer used the wrap to detain a subject for a mental health evaluation.

OC Pepper Spray

In 2024, Hewitt Police Officers used department-issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray chemical agents zero times during an arrest or other incident.

Oleoresin Capsicum is a chemical compound derived from various pepper plants and is mixed with a propellant that is used by many law enforcement agencies as a less-lethal alternative to higher and more injury-producing levels of force. The chemical spray is usually directed at a resisting subject's face and the spray immediately causes burning of the eyes, nose, and mouth, causing the subject to close their eyes and in most cases stop any physical resistance. The burning will usually dissipate within thirty minutes and most often has no long-term side effects.

Included in the category are those incidents where OC Spray was the highest level of force needed to complete handcuffing or bring a resisting subject under control. If the use of OC Spray was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the officers.

There were no incidents in 2024 where the use of OC Pepper Spray was required.

Also included in this category are all those instances where simple use of, or issuance of, verbal commands was not sufficient or effective and may include other instances where other lower levels of force were used but were ineffective in resolving the issue.

Impact Weapons / Baton

In 2024, Hewitt Police Officers used a department-issued form of impact weapon zero times during an arrest or other incident.

Impact weapons include the use of the department-issued ASP Baton, the use of a closed fist, or any other implement that was used to deliver a strike to a person.

The department issues and trains officers in the use of the ASP collapsible baton. Training is provided to instruct officers in the proper placement of strikes that will temporarily stun an individual, allowing the officer time to complete handcuffing. Baton tactics training provided by the department avoids the use of any strikes directed at the head of an individual. If an officer does not have the time or opportunity to deploy the ASP or other less-lethal options, officers may have to defend themselves with their bare hands. If closed fist strikes were required then those instances are reported in this category.

Included in the category are those incidents where an impact weapon was the highest level of force needed to complete handcuffing or bring a resisting subject under control. If the use of an impact weapon was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported at the highest level used by the officers.

There were no instances in the year 2024 where an impact weapon was required.

Also included in this category are all those instances where simple use of, or issuance of, verbal commands was not sufficient or effective and may include other instances where other lower levels of force were used but were ineffective in resolving the issue.

Non/Less Lethal Weapon

In 2024, Hewitt Police Officers used department-issued Non or Less-Lethal Weapons zero times during an arrest or other incident.

The department has less lethal munitions (bean bag rounds) available that can be fired from specially marked shotguns that are designed to inflict surprise, pain, or trauma that is less severe than the use of deadly force. While these rounds are designed to be less lethal than regular firearms, they are still able to cause significant damage to an individual and, as such, are used only as a last resort when time and opportunity permit.

Included in the category are those incidents where a non/less lethal weapon was the highest level of force needed to bring a subject under control. If the use of OC Spray was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported at the highest level used by the officers.

No non/less lethal munitions were used in 2024.

Also included in this category are all those instances where other lower levels of force were used but were ineffective in resolving the issue.

Electronic Control Device

In 2024, Hewitt Police Officers used a department-issued Electronic Control Device one time, by painting the suspect with the “red dot”. Officers used the ECD one time by deploying the ECD.

Electronic Control Devices, commonly called Tasers, are devices that fire two small darts that are designed to imbed themselves in the skin or clothing of a resisting or combative suspect. The darts are connected to the device by small flexible wires that transmit a short five-second-high voltage/low amperage charge through the darts. This disrupts muscle activity and is accompanied by pain which most often temporarily disables the individual. There are usually no long-term side effects of the use of the device on healthy individuals.

The Hewitt Police Department trains its officers in the proper and appropriate use of Electronic Control Devices and has policies designed to only allow its use against active aggression toward officers and not in cases of passive non-compliance or as punishment of any kind.

Included in the category are those incidents where the use of an ECD was the highest level of force needed to bring a subject under control. If the use of an ECD was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported at the highest level used by the officers.

- One Officer painted the suspect with the red dot of the ECD for the offense of Aggravated Assault. This was enough to gain compliance.
- One Officer deployed two cartridges from his ECD for the offense of aggravated assault. Four total probes were deployed and three struck the suspect.

Firearms

In 2024, there were eleven incidents where Hewitt Police Officers exhibited or pointed their firearms.

Firearms are by definition deadly force, and their use is very restricted. Officers must comply with not only their intensive training but with the department's deadly force policy and state law. When an officer fires their weapon in the line of duty, whether or not an individual is hit, a detailed investigation is undertaken to determine if that use complied with both policy and law. Hewitt Police Officers are also required to document any incident where they point/display a firearm during an arrest or high-risk stop.

Included in the category are those incidents where Firearms were the highest level of force used to bring a resisting subject under control.

No firearm was discharged by Hewitt Officers during the course of their duties.

Summary of firearms pointed at subject cases:

- Three Officers responded to a call for a subject threatening to shoot others on scene. Officers pointed their firearms at the subject who was non-compliant with verbal commands. The subject was arrested for terroristic threat.
- Two Officers pointed their firearms at a suspect on a felony stop for a vehicle pursuit.
- One Officer pointed their weapon at a suspect matching the description the description of a subject who called in a bomb threat.
- One Officer pointed his firearm at a suspect who fled in a motor vehicle and then on foot.
- Two Officers pointed their weapons at a suspect for a verbal disturbance call where one of the suspects was reported to have a gun.

Summary of firearm exhibited cases:

- One Officer exhibited his firearm for a felony stop on a stolen vehicle.
- Three Officers exhibited their firearms for a felony stop on a vehicle pursuit.
- One Officer exhibited his firearm at a suspect for a pursuit.
- One Officer exhibited his firearm at a suspect for a burglary of a motor vehicle call.
- One Officer exhibited his firearm at a suspect for a pursuit.
- Two Officers exhibited their firearms at a suspect who was actively burglarizing vehicles in a parking lot and then began to flee.
- Two Officers exhibited their firearms at a suspect during a verbal disturbance where one of the suspects was reported to have a gun.

Citizen and Internal Complaints Regarding the Use of Force

During 2024, the Hewitt Police Department received no complaints of unnecessary or inappropriate use of force.

General Observations

Compared to 2023 the number of incidents that Hewitt Officers were required to use force against an individual in 2024 increased from twenty-two to forty incidents.

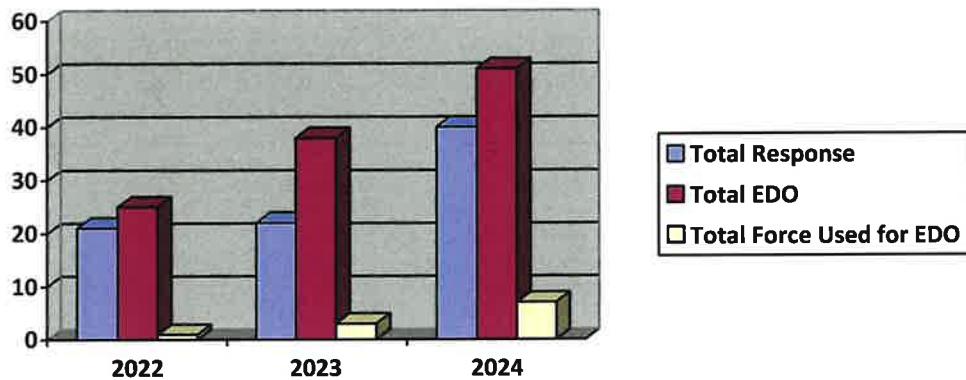
Officers responded to 19627 calls for service in 2022 compared to 17466 calls for service in 2023 and 22610 in 2024. Included in these calls were 7 citizens having a mental health crisis in need of evaluation where force had to be used for detainment. Empty Hand control was used for six of the detainments and the Wrap was used for one.

In 2022 Hewitt Officers detained 25 individuals for mental evaluation. In 2023, Hewitt Officers detained 38 individuals for a mental evaluation. In 2024 Hewitt Officers detained 51 individuals for a mental evaluation.

Hewitt officers also made 615 arrests in 2022 and 469 arrests in 2023 and 480 arrest in 2024.

	2022	2023	2024
Calls for service	19627	17466	22610
Arrest	615	469	480
Emergency Detention	25	38	51
EDO Requiring Force to be Used	1	3	7
Response to resistance incidents	21	22	40

The chart below illustrates how as our call for service numbers rise, our Response to Resistance numbers increase as well as our need to use force for emergency detention.



Recommendations

It is recommended the department continue with the defensive tactics, de-escalation, and Response to Resistance policy training. Additional mental health training and additional services could be helpful for de-escalation when responding to calls for citizens experiencing a mental health crisis. The Department must continue to review and analyze Responses to Resistance Reports to observe any anomalies.

Command Review:

Any Actions to be Taken:

Continue to review all Response to Resistance reports and identify any anomalies in the Response to Resistance review process.

Reviewed and approved by:

John McGrath, Chief of Police

Date