

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Police Department

To: Tarik Khatib, Chief of Police
From: Rob Murry, Police Sergeant
Date: January 1, 2016
Re: Lawrence Police 2015 TASER Report

Discussion

Between January 1, 2015 and December 31 2015, twelve members of the public received an exposure from a Taser during a criminal incident. All Taser uses resulting in an exposure to a member of the public were upon individuals who were actively threatening or engaged in physical violence against another person or officer, or they were actively and physically resisting lawful arrests. A brief synopsis of each event is included as an attachment.

All the members of the public, who received a Taser exposure, were examined by medical health care professionals at a hospital after the Taser exposure.

All Lawrence Police Taser deployments are subject to a review process. All Taser deployments involved a person who was involved in active assaultive behavior, the threat there of, or actively resisting arrest. Active assaultive behavior presents injury risks to the person and the officers who must accomplish their lawful objectives. Lawrence Police Department Taser usage philosophy dictates that Taser usage is for the purpose of intervening in violent encounters where there is a threat of or actual "Inbound Violence" toward a person or any of the officers. This philosophy recognizes there are some instances of active resistance that may not necessitate a Taser deployment.

In 2015 141 officers received the initial user certification for the Taser X2 model, from a certified Taser instructor. Currently, every officer departmentally certified to carry a Taser has received a Taser exposure.

In 2015 the department selected two additional Taser Instructor's. The officer's attended the necessary training to become a certified Taser instructor.

In 2015 the department spent approximately \$76,472.59 on Tasers and related equipment. The breakdown is as follows:

Taser X2 model	\$ 52,931.50
TASER Cartridges	\$ 11,131.50
Digital Power Magazines	\$ 5,969.50
Holsters	\$ 6,286.10
Freight	\$ 153.99

Total \$ 76,472.59

Incident Synopses

On 01/08/2015 an officer on patrol was advised of a possible fight in progress by a citizen. The officer responded to the reported area of the fight near the intersection of 14th Street and Ohio Street. Upon approach the officer observed multiple subjects in the roadway. The officer observed one subject forcefully push another subject. The officer then observed multiple individuals exchanging punches. The officer activated the patrol unit emergency lights and continued toward the disturbance. Once at the disturbance the officer gave verbal commands to stop. The individuals involved in the disturbance fled, and the officer was able to apprehend one of the individuals. While the officer was escorting the individual back to the scene, the officer was advised of the primary aggressor by witnesses and noted the aggressor was still present. The officer noted the only individual still trying to fight was the individual identified as the primary aggressor. The officer released the individual that had been apprehended to address the individual that was still continuing to attempt to fight other individuals. The officer instructed the individual that had been identified as the aggressor to the ground. The individual refused and the officer placed the individual on the ground. The officer attempted to handcuff the individual the individual stood and again attempted to harm two individuals who were standing by at the direction of the officer. The officer attempted to physically stop the individual attempting to harm others. The officer was not able to physically stop the individual and the individual again went toward the individuals standing by. The officer deployed a Taser and it temporarily deterred the individual. The individual attempted to flee and the officer attempted to physically restrain the individual. The individual pushed the officer away and again attempted to injure the individuals standing by. The officer was able to re-energize the Taser and the individual went to the ground. Other officers arrived on scene, and the individual was taken into custody.

On 01/24/2015 officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the 1500 block of W. 9th Street. The reporting party reported a wallet had been lost. The officer took the report and cleared the scene. The officer noted during the interaction another individual was present in the area. That individual paced back and forth, pounded their chest with their fists, and yelled the reporting party and all officers were racists. Approximately 15 minutes after clearing officers were dispatched to the same location in reference to a disturbance. A different reporting party reported the individual present in the first call threatened them with bodily harm and property damage while striking their self in the face with a their own fist and stomping the ground. Officers attempted to contact the individual at their residence. Officers noted the door was open and asked the individual if they could speak with the individual. The individual jumped up and punched a wall, the individual then ran and closed the door. The individual screamed obscenities and would not speak with officers. The individual concealed their face and turned off the lights inside the residence. Officers set a perimeter and an officer went to obtain a search warrant. While waiting for the warrant the individual exited their residence. The individual was contacted by officers. The individual was informed that the individual was under arrest. The individual attempted to strike officers in the face. A Taser was deployed and it temporarily deterred the individual. Officers took the individual into custody.

On 03/06/2015 officers were dispatched to the 800 block of Massachusetts Street in reference to an auto burglary in progress. Officers arrived on scene and recognized the individual attempting to gain entry into a vehicle as an individual that had an arrest warrant. The officer determined the vehicle being entered had been previously reported as stolen. The officer informed the individual that the individual was under arrest. The individual pulled away and

swung back at the officer. The individual was taken to the ground and continued to exhibit assaultive behavior. A Taser was deployed. It was a successful deployment and the individual was taken into custody.

On 03/08/2015 officers responded to the 2400 block of Alabama Street. The response was in reference to a domestic disturbance. Officers could hear an individual yelling for help from an apartment. Officers located the apartment and an individual answered the door. The officers observed a second individual inside the apartment holding an infant. The second individual asked for help and stated the first individual was hurting them. Officers attempted to secure the first individual. The individual balled their fists and refused to be placed into handcuffs. The individual pulled away from officers and officers pinned the individual to a nearby wall. Officers continued to attempt to place the individual into handcuffs but were unsuccessful. Officers attempted to use knee strikes, but were unsuccessful. The individual pushed one officer causing the officer to fall to the ground and the officer pulled the individual while falling, causing the individual to fall on top of the officer. A Taser was deployed and the individual was taken into custody.

On 04/30/2015 officers responded to the 900 block of W. 23rd Street. The response was in reference to a disturbance. Emergency Communications advised an individual was yelling at employees inside a business. Emergency Communications advised multiple citizens had called. The individual left the business prior to the arrival of officers. An officer located the individual in the 2400 block of Alabama Street. The officer attempted to contact the individual. The individual was argumentative and continued to walk away from the officer. The officer requested another officer to respond and continued to attempt to speak with the individual. The individual continued to walk away and ignore the officer. The officer told the individual that they were not free to leave and that they were being detained. The individual continued to walk away. The officer physically grabbed the individual and the individual pulled away. The individual walked into an apartment and the officer again attempted to physically stop the individual. The individual pushed the officer and attempted to close the apartment door. The officer continued to follow the individual and the individual continued to yell at the officer. The officer again tried physical control and the individual swiped the officer's hands away. The individual went into the kitchen. The individual became belligerent and the officer displayed a Taser advising the individual that they were under arrest. The individual responded that they were not under arrest and got into an assaultive posture by widening their stance and dropping their center of balance. The officer deployed the Taser and the individual swiped the probes from the front of their body causing the Taser to have no effect. The officer requested additional units and ordered the individual to get on the ground. The individual refused and the officer again deployed the Taser. The probes stuck into the chest of the individual. The individual pulled the probes from their chest and the second deployment had no effect. The officer holstered the Taser and transitioned to pepper spray while giving verbal commands. The individual blocked the pepper spray with their hat and hands. The officer holstered the pepper spray and went hands on with the individual. The individual continued to push and pull the officer. The officer backed away into the living room and again gave verbal commands. The individual ripped off their shirt and started aggressively walking towards the officer. The officer deployed the expandable baton and struck the individual in the leg at least three times. The individual continued to resist until a second officer arrived. The second officer ordered the individual to the ground and the first officer was able to take the individual into custody.

On 05/03/2015 officers responded to the 3300 block of Iowa Street. The call was in reference to an aggravated assault. The first officer on scene observed an employee, of the business that called, in close proximity to an individual with a knife. The officer ordered the individual at gunpoint to drop the knife. The officer provided info over the radio to responding units, and again gave verbal commands. The individual concealed the knife and hands behind their back and started walking slowly toward the officer. The individual stopped walking and the officer ordered the individual to drop the knife, and told the individual they would be shot. The individual responded with a request to be shot in the head. Another officer arrived on scene and officers gave commands hoping to maintain the situation until more officers arrived. A third officer arrived and the individual started to walk away from officers. Two officer's maintained lethal cover and one officer deployed a Taser. The deployment was successful and the individual was taken into custody.

On 07/18/2015 Officers responded to the 1300 block of Massachusetts Street. The call was in reference to an emergency back of another officer. The initial officer had chased an individual that had a warrant for arrest into a residence. The officer additionally was attempting to hold the residence and apply for a search warrant. While waiting for the search warrant one individual present became increasingly agitated. The individual was informed they could leave and was asked to calm down multiple times. The individual began yelling and had a nylon pet leash. The individual swung the leash in the direction of an officer and struck items in close proximity to the officer with the metal hasp end. The officer walked toward the individual and instructed the individual to calm down so that the officer could explain. The individual raised their right hand while holding the leash as they prepared to strike the officer. The officer instructed the individual not to square off at the officer. Other officers moved in and directed the individual to place their hands behind their back. The individual refused, backed away, and attempted to stop the officer's attempt to place the individual into custody by physically wrestling against the officers. The individual was warned of a Taser deployment potential and the individual continued. Multiple officers attempted to physically control the individual and take the individual into custody and were unsuccessful. One officer observed the individual kick another officer during the struggle. That officer deployed a Taser. The deployment was successful and the individual was taken into custody.

On 07/29/2015 officers responded to 6th Street near the 1300 block. The call was in reference to assisting the Kansas Highway Patrol with a vehicle pursuit. A spike strip was deployed and three occupants fled from the vehicle on foot. An officer canvassing the area locate an individual in a backyard of a residence. The individual informed the officer that the individual resided at the residence. The officer conducted a pat down of the individual for weapons and did not locate any. The officer asked for the address of the residence and the individual provided the wrong address twice. After being provided the wrong address twice the officer attempted to take control of the individual by grabbing the wrist of the individual. The individual pulled away from the officer and ran. The officer pursued and tackled the individual. The individual turned toward the officer and the officer believed the individual was going to strike the officer. The officer started for the Taser and decided against it, because of the close proximity of the individual. The individual and the officer wrestled against each other for approximately 30 seconds. The individual pushed away from the officer multiple times and was able to stand and begin to flee again. The officer deployed a Taser and the deployment was successful. The individual was taken into custody.

On 07/30/2015 an officer responded to the intersection of 23rd Street and Massachusetts Street. The call was in reference to a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian. The officer arrived on scene and observed a naked individual walking eastbound and bleeding from one arm. The officer directed the individual to sit down and inquired to the individual's wellbeing. The individual began charging toward the officer with a facial expression of confusion that changed to anger and determined. The officer backpedaled and provided verbal commands telling the individual to get back. The individual continued and responded either with a drawn out "no" or a moan. The officer retreated approximately two car lengths and continued to give commands. The officer displayed a Taser and continued to shout commands, but the individual continued. The officer deployed a Taser and the individual went to the ground. The officer approached the individual and stopped the deployment to handcuff the individual. The individual again charged the officer and the officer deployed the Taser again. The deployment was successful and the officer, with the assistance of an off duty officer took the individual into custody.

On 10/09/2015 an officer responded to the 3800 block of Shadybrook Lane. The response was in reference to a known individual present with a no-bond warrant for the arrest of the individual. The officer made contact with the individual. The officer noted two other individuals were present as well. The officer asked the individual to speak with the officer and the individual fled on foot. The officer pursued and caught the individual. The officer attempted to place the individuals' hands behind their back while giving verbal commands to the individual. The individual attempted to push and pull away from the officer. The individual then attempted to take the officer to the ground. The officer pushed the individual away. The officer unholstered their Taser, but the individual again fled on foot. The officer pursued the individual and the individual jumped over a wooden fence. The individual landed on their stomach and was attempting to get up when the officer deployed the Taser. The deployment was successful and the individual was taken into custody.

On 10/09/2015 an officer initiated a building check in the 3900 block of Overland Circle. The officer had information that the address had been associated with suspects of recent thefts and burglaries. The officer was aware of illegal drug activity in the area as well. A vehicle arrived at the address and dropped off an individual. The vehicle then drove into neighboring driveways. As the vehicle left the address the officer noted due to illegal window tint the officer could not see the driver's silhouette. The officer attempted to conduct a car stop on the vehicle and the vehicle fled. The officer pursued the vehicle and noted numerous traffic violations. The vehicle stopped near Randall Road and 10th Terrace due to it becoming disabled. An individual exited the vehicle carrying an unidentifiable white object in their hand, and fled on foot. The individual attempted to climb a fence and fell from the fence. The individual stood to their feet and attempted to flee. The officer deployed the Taser. The deployment was successful and the individual was taken into custody.

On 11/12/2015 an officer responded to the 600 block of W. 9th Street. The response was in reference to a welfare check that was later determined to be illegal camping. The officer observed an individual sleeping on private property without the property owner's permission. The officer contacted the individual and attempted to obtain the necessary information to issue a citation for the offense. The individual became increasingly agitated and yelled profanities at the officer. The individual made racial slurs toward the officer and threatened physical harm against the officer. The individual was instructed to sit next to their belongings and initially complied. The individual then stood quickly, attempted to close the distance to the officer, and

again shouted profanities. The individual had both fists clinched, and their arms out to their side in a fighting stance. The officer stepped back drew and activated the Taser giving verbal commands to the individual. The individual stepped back, and maintained eye contact with the officer. The individual paced back and forth. The officer gave verbal commands and then attempted to place the individual into handcuffs. The individual pulled their hands from the officer, and pushed the officer backwards. The officer again up-holstered the Taser and gave commands to get back. The officer replaced the Taser and removed O.C. spray. The officer instructed the individual to get on the ground. The individual refused and the officer warned the individual of the O.C. spray. The individual attempted to cover their face and wipe away the spray. The officer attempted to take the individual to the ground. The individual grabbed the officer around the chest and attempted to turn the officer. The officer disengaged and again held the individual at Taser point. Other officers arrived on scene and one officer again deployed O.C. spray. The initial officer again attempted to take the individual to the ground, but the individual caught their self. The individual stood up flailing both arms toward an officer. An officer deployed a Taser and it was unsuccessful. A different officer deployed a Taser and it was successful. The individual was taken into custody.

Events Summary

All of the people who received a Taser exposure were examined by medical health care professionals at a hospital. The medical attention was typically provided at the expense of the City and not the person.

None of the twelve individuals who received a Taser exposure filed a complaint.

One Taser policy violation was noted during 2015. The violation occurred during the deployment of the Taser. The individual was actively resisting apprehension, but was not actively involved in violence or threat of violence against the officer or another at the time of deployment.

The twelve individuals who received a Taser exposure were comprised of (8) Caucasian Males, and (4) African American Males. Their ages: One was (19) years old, one was (20) years old, one was (18) years old, one was (25) years old, one was (27) years old, five were (30) years old, one was (34) years old, and one was (43) years old.

The following Kansas Statute and Lawrence Municipal Ordinance violations were identified by the arresting officers in the eleven cases where a person received a Taser exposure:

- Aggravated Assault of a Law Enforcement Officer
- Aggravated Assault
- Assault of a Law Enforcement Officer
- Assault
- Assist Outside Agency
- Battery of a Law Enforcement Officer
- Consuming in Public\
- Criminal Threat
- Disorderly Conduct
- Distribution of Controlled Substance
- Domestic Battery

Emergency Detention
Endangering a Child
Flee or Attempt to Elude a Law Enforcement Officer
Illegal Camping
Interference with Law Enforcement Duties
Intimidation of a witness
Obstruct Legal Process
Possession of Controlled Substance
Theft