

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
LORENA CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025 6:30 P.M.
LORENA CITY HALL
107-A S. FRONTAGE ROAD, LORENA TEXAS

THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THE MEETING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE
AT THE FOLLOWING LINK <https://meet.goto.com/529220605>

The City Council Meeting will be opened to the public.

Questions and comments on items listed on the agenda may be emailed no later than NOON on the day of the meeting to the City Secretary Monica Hendrix via email to mhendrix@lorenatx.gov

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 3. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2025-0512-01 canvassing and declaring the results of the May 3, 2025 General Election.**
- 4. Presentation of Certificates of Election and Oath of Office to elected Mayor and Council members.**
- 5. Recognition of outgoing Mayor Tommy Ross and City Council Alderman Brad Wetzel.**
- 6. Public Comments.**

At this time any person with business before the Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Council. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, and this time is not transferable. Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council is prohibited from discussing, responding, or acting on any comments or items that have not been properly posted on the agenda. This forum is limited to a total of 30 minutes.

- 7. Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting**
- 8. Committee and Corporation Reports:**
 - a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation**
- 9. Discussion and possible action appointing a Mayor Pro Tempore for a one-year term.**
- 10. Discussion and possible action appointing members to the Lorena Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two year term.**
- 11. Discussion and possible action appointing members to the Lorena Planning and Zoning Commission for a two year term.**
- 12. Discussion and possible action to appoint/reappoint Board Members to the Lorena TIRZ #1 East Board for the remainder of the existing :**
Seat 2 – expires November 2025, Seat 3 – November 2026
- 13. Police Department Report.**
- 14. Future Agenda Items.**
- 15. Adjourn**

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above Notice of Meeting of the governing body of the City of Lorena, Texas, was posted on the front door at the Lorena City Hall and the city website at on May 8, 2025.

Monica Hendrix
Monica Hendrix-City Secretary

THE GUIDANCE AND PROVISIONS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS IN THE DECLARATION OF DISASTER ENACTED MARCH 13, 2020, MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL MAY BE PARTICIPATING REMOTELY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, AS TEMPORARILY MODIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Attendance by Other Elected or Appointed Officials – NOTICE OF POSSIBLE QUORUM: It is anticipated that members of City Council or other city board, commissions and/or committees may attend the meeting in numbers that may constitute a quorum of the other city boards, commissions and/or committees. Notice is hereby given that the meeting, to the extent required by law, is also noticed as a meeting of the other boards, commissions and/or committees of the City, whose members may be in attendance. The members of the boards, commissions and/or committees may participate in discussions on the same items listed on the agenda, which occur at the meeting, but no action will be taken by such in attendance unless such item and action is specifically provided for on an agenda for that board, commission or committee subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, the City of Lorena will provide reasonable accommodations for persons attending and/or participating in City Council meetings. The facility is wheelchair accessible, with handicap parking available at the side of the building. Requests for sign interpreters or special services must be received seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting by calling the City Secretary at 254-857-4641.

PROCEDURES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

The meetings will be streamed live on the City of Lorena's Facebook page.

Citizens who wish to address the Council on any item on the agenda or under the hearing of visitors, must submit questions via email to the City Secretary Monica Hendrix @ mhendrix@lorenatx.gov or in person at Lorena City Hall at 107-A S. Frontage Road by NOON on the day of the meeting. Your comments will be read into the records during the meeting.

Council may not comment publicly on issues raised during citizen comments that are not listed on the agenda but may direct the City Manager to resolve or request the matter to be placed on a future agenda. Such public comments shall not include any "deliberation" as defined by Chapter 551 of the Government Code, as now or hereafter amended.

RESOLUTION 2025-0512-01

A RESOLUTION CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 3, 2025 ELECTION OF ONE (1) MAYOR AT LARGE FOR A TWO YEAR TERM AND TWO (2) ALDERMAN AT LARGE FOR A TWO YEAR TERM

There came to be considered the returns of an election held on the 3rd day of May 2025, for the purpose of electing the hereinafter named officials, and it appearing from said returns, duly and legally made, that there were 237 ballots cast; that each of the candidates in said election received the following votes:

<u>Position-Mayor-2 year term</u>	<u>Votes Cast</u>
Jonathan Guerra	38
Russell Walizer	192
<u>Position-Alderman-2 year term</u>	
Malisa Spivey	41
Chantel Spivey	16
Jessica Montez	33
Adam R. Montemayor	177
Carla Pendergraft	151

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LORENA, TEXAS:

That said election was duly called; notice of said election was given in accordance with law, and that said election was held in accordance with law; and that **Russell Walizer** was duly elected as Mayor and **Adam R. Montemayor** and **Carla Pendergraft** were duly elected as Alderman at large for a two-year term. Said above named parties are hereby declared duly elected to said respective offices, subject to the taking of their oath of office as provided by the law of the State of Texas.

It is further found and determined that in accordance with the order of this governing body that the City Secretary posted written notice of the date, place, and subject of this meeting on the bulletin board at City Hall, a place convenient to the public, and said notice having been so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the date of this meeting. A copy of the return of said posting shall be attached to the minutes of the meeting and shall be made a part thereof for all intents and purposes.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY 2025.

Russell Walizer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Monica Hendrix, City Secretary



City of Lorena
107-A S. Frontage Road
Lorena, Texas 76655
(254) 857-4641 Fax (254) 857-4118

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
LORENA CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 21 6:30 P.M.
LORENA CITY HALL
107-A S. FRONTAGE ROAD, LORENA TEXAS

THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THE MEETING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE
AT THE FOLLOWING LINK <https://meet.goto.com/761165125>

The City Council Meeting will be opened to the public.

Questions and comments on items listed on the agenda may be emailed no later than NOON on the day of the meeting to the City Secretary Monica Hendrix via email to mhendrix@lorenatx.gov

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Mayor Pro tem Kelly Yarbrough, Jason Blanek, Carla Pendergraft and Brad Wetzel. Emily McKenzie arrived at 6:38 p.m.

City Staff present were Monica Hendrix, Scott Holt, Linda Klump, Kevin Neal and Peter Rivas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments.

At this time any person with business before the Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Council. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, and this time is not transferable. Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council is prohibited from discussing, responding, or acting on any comments or items that have not been properly posted on the agenda. This forum is limited to a total of 30 minutes.

Pat Kultgen, 115 Brandy Hill, Lorena Texas spoke. Ms. Kultgen complimented the City Secretary for doing a good job. Kultgen also stated that after requesting a copy of the application for the Texan Store, it is incomplete, and all it consisted of was a cover sheet, a fluffy letter saying how good they were and a site plan. Kultgen says the ordinance is very specific about what has to go in a condition use permit application. Kultgen says there are consequences for breaking your own laws and every single person in the city who is affected can sue you in district court. The penalties are up to \$100,000 per person and you are liable. Kultgen suggested to council to review their actions and let the Texan know that they did not submit a complete permit application.

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. March 17, 2025

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough made a motion to approve the March 17, 2025 minutes.

SECOND: Carla Pendergraft

FOR: Blanek, Pendergraft, Yarbrough and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion Carried 4-0.

5. Discussion and possible action appointing Christian Ortiz, Production Manager for Bright Farms to the Lorena TIRZ #1 East Board of Directors Seat #6 as a land owner's representative to replace William Callan for the remainder of the term for Seat #6 expiring November 2025.

Kevin Neal explained that current board member William Callan has been saying for a few months that he would like to step away from the board and take an off hands approach. After searching for a landowner representative for the board, Christian Ortiz with Bright Farms has made application to serve on the board. Mayor Ross spoke and says he has met Mr. Ortiz who has moved here from Pennsylvania to the Woodway area to work at Bright Farms and is a great guy. Kelly Yarbrough spoke and says that Mr. Ortiz is very enthusiastic and very excited to be involved and watch how the TIRZ develop.

MOTION: appoint Christian Ortiz to the Lorena TIRZ #1 East Board of Directors seat #6.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blanek, Pendergraft, Yarbrough and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion Carried 4-0

6. Discussion and possible action on approving a lease with DDI for computer equipment for City Hall and the Police Department.

Linda Klump explained Historically, the City of Lorena has had a more reactive approach to maintaining computer equipment, including two servers and multiple desktop and laptop computers at both City Hall and the Police Department, replacing equipment as they either failed or showed signs of aging.

The City leased a server for the PD in FY 2024 replacing the server purchased in 2018. Also, the City budgeted, in FY 2025, to lease a server for City Hall replacing that server that has been in service since 2016. The desktops and laptops at City Hall and the PD range from 3 – 6 years old. Employees at both City Hall and the PD are experiencing issues that slow-down processing time for computer applications as the desktops/laptops age.

The City budgets each year within Administration, Police, and Utility Administration enough funds to replace a desktop/laptop in each department.

Kevin Neal added that Windows 10 will become obsolete in October 2025 and almost every computer at city hall operates on windows 10. Neal also added that this is a TIPS contract and the city is receiving a lower price for leasing all the equipment at once.

MOTION: Carla Pendergraft moved to approve a lease with DDI for computer equipment for City Hall and the Police Department.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, Pendergraft, McKenzie, Yarbrough and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried 5-0.

7. Presentation of quarterly Cash and Investments and Budget reports as of March 31, 2025.

Linda Klump reviewed the quarterly cash and investments report and pointed out the interest rates

are trending down. On the Budget report document, the first page summarizes the combined funds. Klump explained that each fund has notes at the bottom of the page for explanations of activity. Klump explained changes in the different funds. We are halfway through the year so 50% is the baseline for activity.

8. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2025-0421-01 establishing monthly and yearly limits on the amount of time personnel are required to spend processing public information requests from a requestor.

Kevin Neal informed council the city attorney wrote the ordinance for the city. This ordinance does not prevent anyone from making an open record request, or limit the ability for information, it simply allows the city to recoup a fraction of the cost for time and research when overloaded with information request. Neal explained this is a state law but in order for the city to set limits, the governing body must first adopt an ordinance to establish the policy.

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-0421-01.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, Pendergraft, McKenzie, Yarbrough and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried 5-0.

9. Discussion and possible action to accept the 2024 Street Improvement Project for Cindy Lane as complete and begin the 1-year warranty period.

Kevin Neal explained in September 2024, the City of Lorena awarded the 2024 Street Improvement Project in the amount of \$174,900.00 to Kasparian Underground. As of April 14, 2025, the project was set to close out in the amount of \$202,309. There was a total of four (4) change orders totaling \$27,409.00 for this project. The two primary reasons for the change orders were to address the fact that we chose to widen the full width of the road to 21 feet. This widening of the road caused the City to need an additional 125 SY of asphalt and for two driveways to receive concrete drive approaches in order for the trash truck to turn around without tearing up the new road. Neal explained Cindy Lane is a dead end road. These two additional scopes of work cost \$22,209. The City Engineer, John Simcik, has made a formal recommendation that the City of Lorena accept the 2024 street improvement project as complete on March 20, 2025. This is the first project funded by the reallocation of sales tax.

MOTION: Jason Blanek made the motion to accept the 2024 street improvement project as complete.

SECOND: Carla Pendergraft

FOR: Blanek, Pendergraft, McKenzie, Yarbrough and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried 5-0.

10. Discussion and possible action to accept the Frontage Road Water Line Improvement Project as complete and begin the 1-year warranty period retroactive from February 16, 2025

Kevin Neal explained in August 2024, the City of Lorena awarded the Frontage Road Water Line Improvements project in the amount of \$149,439.00 to Southern Contractors Group LLC. As of April 14, 2025, the project was set to close out in the amount of \$153,435. There was only one change order totaling \$4,000.00 for this project. This change order was due to the fact that there were three service valves specified for this length of water main; however, in the bid tabulation and specifications, only two valves were specified. The contractor and city agreed to pay the same lump sum amount for the third valve as the contractor bid for the other two. Neal explained this was the water line under the old Raymond's/Journey Lorena building. MRB Group's Engineer, Mr. Armand Hunt, has made a formal recommendation that the City of Lorena accept the Frontage Road water line improvements project as complete on April 1, 2025, and retroactively accept the 1-year warranty period beginning February 16, 2025. Federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act funded this project, with no local funds contributed.

MOTION: Carla Pendergraft moved to accept Frontage Road Water Line improvement as complete.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blanek, Pendergraft, McKenzie, Yarbrough and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried 5-0.

11. Discussion and possible action changing the date for the May 2025 regular council meeting from May 19th to May 12th in order to meet canvassing deadlines.

Monica Hendrix informed council the meeting change would prevent council from having to hold two meetings in May.

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough motioned to change the May 19th meeting to May 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blanek, Pendergraft, McKenzie, Yarbrough and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried 5-0.

12. Police Department Report.

Chief Scott Holt informed council the March 2025 monthly report is in the packet. There were 167 calls for service, 123 traffic stops and one arrest in March.

PD also had a great turnout in the annual Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics. With 32 members of "Team Lorena", collectively, they were able to raise \$1,620 for our local athletes.

13. City Manager Report.

a. City Hall Closed on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 for staff development.

Kevin Neal informed council this is an annual staff development day and city hall will be closed.

14. Future Agenda items.

Kevin Neal informed council there will be an action item to appoint members to the TIRZ board as two council members will be stepping down. TIRZ meets every other month.

15. Adjourn

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

These minutes were approved the 12th day of May 2025.

Russell Walizer, Mayor

Attest:

Monica Hendrix-City Secretary



LORENA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNCIL REPORT
APRIL 2025

CALLS FOR SERVICE BY TYPE – APRIL 2025

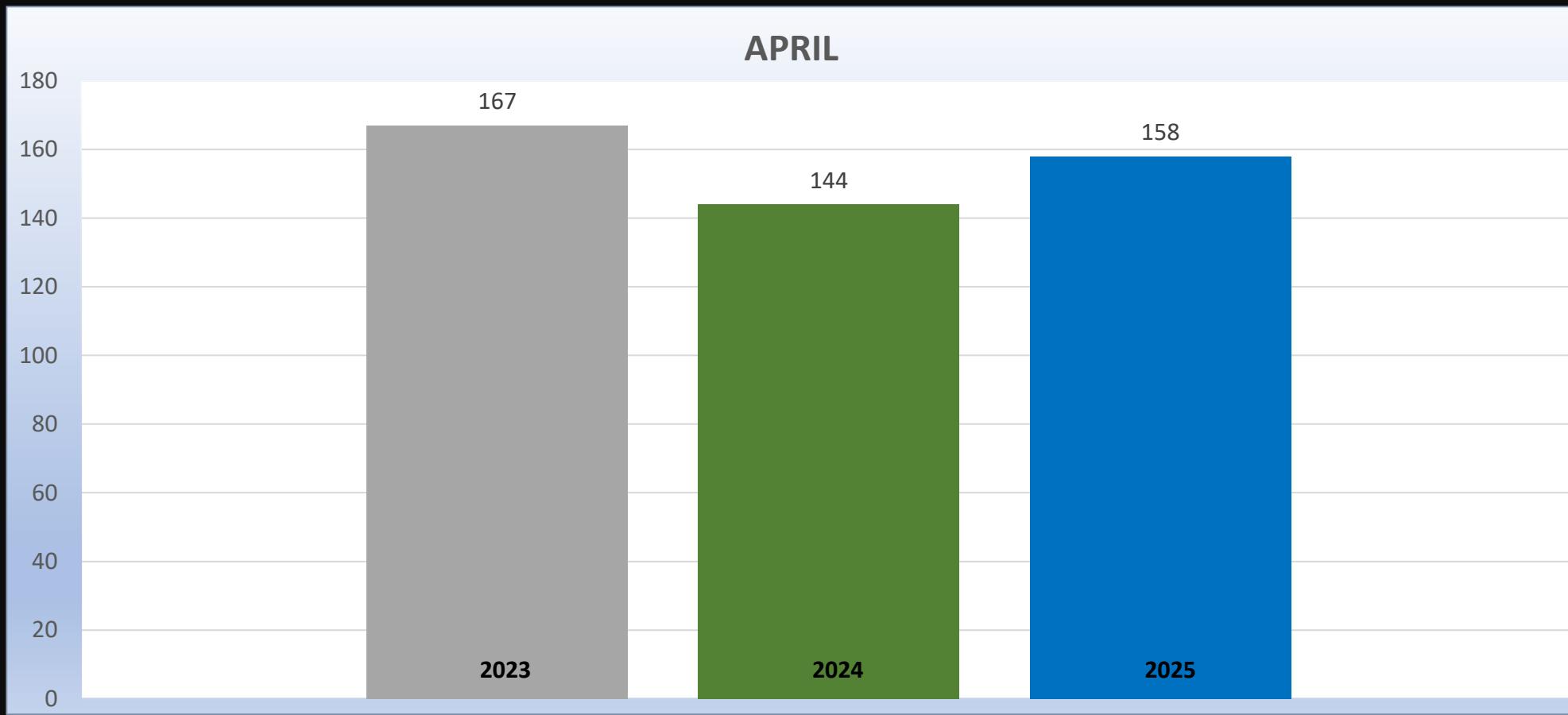
DESCRIPTION	# OF CALLS
BURGLAR ALARM	2
ABANDONED VEHICLE	3
ABANDONING/ENDANGERING A CHILD	1
ACCIDENT	8
ANIMAL CALL	1
ASSAULT	1
ASSIST CITIZEN	4
ASSIST MOTORIST	17
ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES	6
CIVIL MATTER	1
DISTURBANCE	1
EMS	17
FIRE	6
FOLLOW UP	8
FOOT PATROL	40
MUTUAL AID	1
RECKLESS DRIVING	3
SERVE COMPLAINT	1
SRO DUTIES	1
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	5
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	2
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	4
THEFT	1
TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS	3
TRAFFIC CONTROL	1
TRAFFIC HAZARD	4
VCO - DOG	4
VCO-SOLICITATION	1
WARRANT SERVICE	2
WELFARE CHECK	6
WELFARE CONCERN	3
TOTAL	158



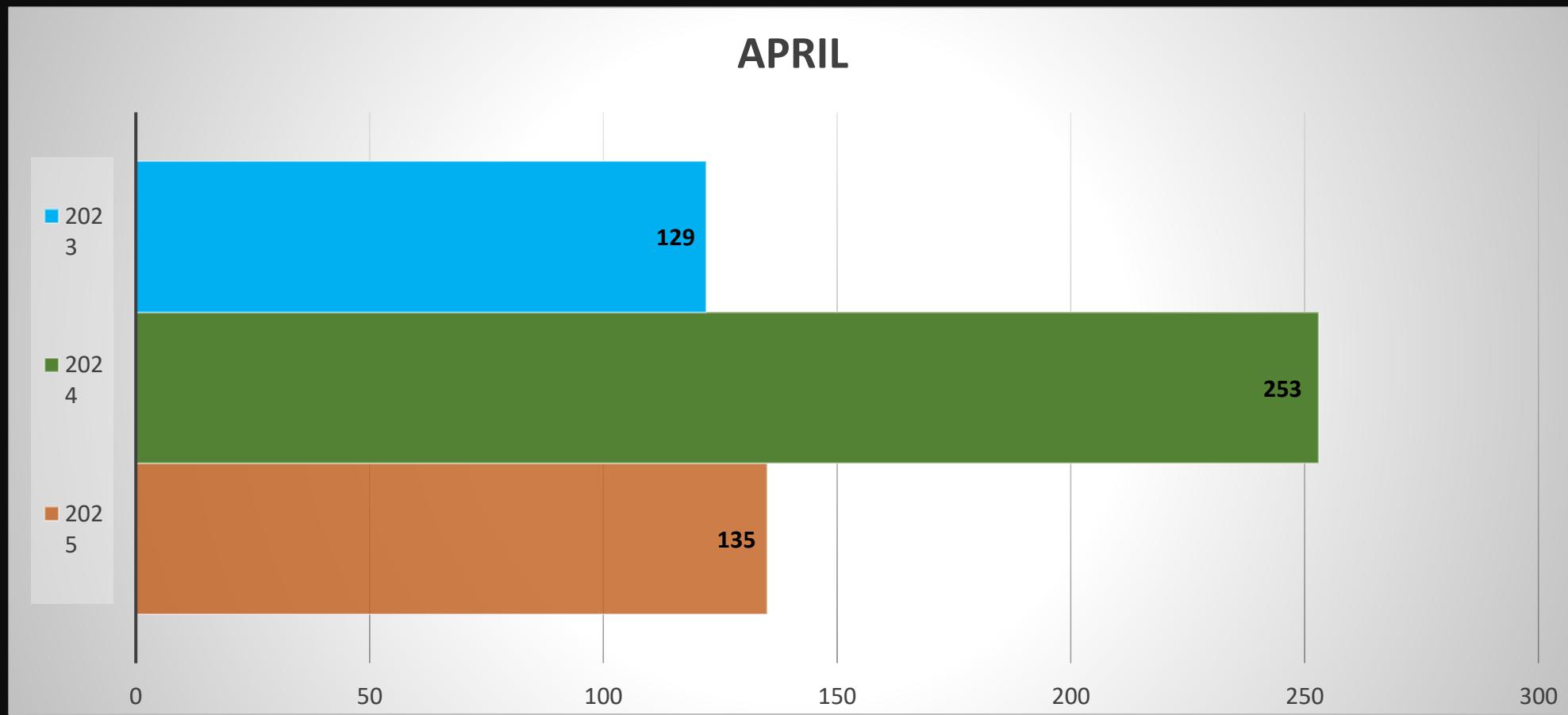
CALLS FOR SERVICE – DETAILED

- 4/2/2025 – Welfare Concern – Caller reported a male walking on Williams Rd near the middle school carrying a pot and a sleeping bag. Caller wanted officers to check on the male. The male was located and given a courtesy ride to a location closer to his destination.
- 4/5/2025 – Traffic Hazard – Caller reported a block of wood in the far-left lane on Interstate 35. Officer Becknauld responded and removed the hazard.
- 4/8/2025 – Welfare Concern – Caller reported a female walking along the service road and appeared unstable. Female was contacted by an officer and was ok.
- 4/11/2025 – Traffic Hazard – Tire tread reported on the interstate. Hazard was removed.
- 4/15/2025 – Welfare Check – Caller reported seeing a female sitting on the service road with suitcases. Female was contacted and refused any type of assistance by officers.
- 4/16/2025 – Suspicious Circumstances – Caller report seeing two individuals walking behind a building near Tommy's convenience store after midnight. Caller then reported seeing one individual make entry into the building. Lt. Rivas responded and located the individuals. The building was found to be secure. Individuals were subsequently released after an on-scene investigation.
- 4/16/2025 – Disturbance – Caller reported two males having a physical altercation in a parking lot. Males were contacted by officers and received citations for Disorderly Conduct.
- 4/23/2025 – Suspicious Vehicle – Employees at local business called to report a vehicle in their parking lot after hours and employees were not comfortable exiting the building to walk to their vehicles. The vehicle was found to be unoccupied, and employees were able to leave the building.
- 4/27/2025 – Endangered Child – Customer at local convenience store called to report a child (approximately 4 years old) wandering around the parking lot with no supervision. Officer Becknauld arrived and located the child's mother, who was tending to her three other children and changing a diaper when one child wandered off. Mother and children continued on their way.
- 4/30/2025 – Welfare Check – Officer Board checked on a resident at her home after she had made previous statements of potential self harm. Resident was determined to be ok.

CALLS FOR SERVICE - GRAPH



TRAFFIC STOPS BY LORENA POLICE



ARRESTS

Possession of Controlled Substance – Cocaine – A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for multiple traffic violations. The driver was arrested for a warrant through another agency. Crack cocaine was found in the vehicle from a search prior to the vehicle being towed to the impound lot.

Evading Arrest/Detention – Motorcyclist was arrested after completion of previously mentioned investigation.

Total Arrests – 2 arrests for the month of April

INVESTIGATIONS

- 4/4/2025 – Assist Outside Agency – DFPS requested assistance in determining if an individual had violated a condition of bond at a store in Hewitt. Sgt Bull reviewed video surveillance footage at the store and confirmed a violation had occurred. The information was provided to the DFPS Investigator to continue the investigation.
- 4/8/2025 – Found Property – A wallet was turned in at the police department after an individual found it in a ditch near a convenience store. The owner of the wallet was contacted, and the wallet was returned the same day.
- 4/10/2025 – Burglary of a Building – Two masked individuals broke the front door glass of Tommy's convenience store and stole multiple packs of cigarettes and the cash register money box, as seen on store video surveillance. Investigation is ongoing.
- 4/12/2025 – Evading Arrest/Detention - A traffic stop was attempted on a motorcycle after receiving reports of a motorcycle speeding in the area on a regular basis. Motorcyclist fled from officer at a high rate of speed. The pursuit was terminated for public safety reasons. Multiple tips came in from citizens, who helped identify the motorcyclist. An arrest warrant was issued and the motorcyclist turned himself in at the McLennan County Jail.
- 4/17/2025 – Found Property – A citizen turned in a set of keys that were found at the park. Keys were returned to the owner.
- 4/18/2025 – Harassment – Citizen reported online harassment. Case was unfounded.
- 4/18/2025 – Information Report – Citizen in another country reported an assault that occurred in her country several years ago. Citizen was referred to her local police agency.
- 4/22/2025 – Possession of Controlled Substance – Involves juvenile under 18 years of age. Lab results confirmed no offense occurred. Case is closed.
- 4/25/2025 – Attempted Theft – Reporting Party called to report unknown subject(s) had cut wires and attempting to steal an air conditioning unit to a new home currently still under construction. Case is ongoing.

