



WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE **FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT**

2024 OPERATIONAL REPORT



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

	2024	2023
FLIGHT HOURS	820.3	864.4
EVENTS DISPATCHED	1764	1941
VEHICLE PURSUITS AND FOLLOWS	93	100
ARREST % IN VEHICLE PURSUITS & FOLLOWS	72%	71%

TOTAL PERSONS LOCATED	464	401
PERSONS LOCATED – CRIMINAL EVENT	266	200
PERSONS LOCATED – NON CRIMINAL EVENT	198	201

FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT MANDATE AND ANALYSIS

The Flight Operations Unit (FOU) is responsible for supporting ground personnel and providing situational awareness for operations and investigations. The perspective and information provided by FOU increases public and officer safety, aids in the detection of criminal suspects, assists in locating individuals in need of assistance, and enables safer management of large-scale events. The FOU also provides support and assistance to other Manitoba public safety agencies in Winnipeg and the surrounding area.

Aircrews provide the following specific services:

1

Respond to crimes in progress for aerial containment, reconnaissance, and locate criminal suspects and evidence.

AIR-1 responded to 1764 events, of which 1471 or 83% were high risk events.

2

Search for lost, missing, or vulnerable persons.

AIR-1 assisted in the search for 28 missing persons and 62 people threatening self-harm.

3

Track vehicles that have refused to stop for police and reduce the risk in these dynamic events by allowing ground resources to disengage and deploy other tactics to conclude the incident.

AIR-1 tracked 93 vehicles involved in follows or pursuits.

4

Survey of specific locations in support of other police unit operations and mandates, including planning and support for large public events.

AIR-1 attended 2 events, providing aerial support, thereby enhancing public safety at these large gatherings.

5

Conduct proactive patrols to identify and deter criminal activity, as well as detect other types of emergencies which pose a threat to public safety.

AIR-1 initiated 32 proactive events*

6

Provide an aerial perspective and video for incident commanders to aid in decision making and responses to major environmental incidents, fires, and natural disasters.

AIR-1 provided an aerial perspective for 30 fire events.

* Incident observed by aircrew prior to being reported

PURSUIT & FOLLOWS (WHILE OPERATIONAL)



Traffic Pursuits

Police attempt to stop a vehicle and the driver refuses to obey or evades Police.

Vehicle Follows

When a police unit is driving behind (following) a vehicle with the intention of stopping the vehicle and the driver is not attempting to evade or elude police.

Traffic Pursuits

11

10 Vehicles located / stopped

9

in custody events

Vehicle Follows

82

67 Vehicles located by AIR 1

58

in custody events

Total

93

77 Vehicles located / stopped

67

in custody events



FEATURED INCIDENTS

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Stolen Vehicle

Following the identification of a confirmed stolen vehicle by General Patrol officers, AIR-1 personnel coordinated an aerial observation of the suspect vehicle until it came to a safe stop. The suspects attempted to evade capture by concealing themselves in the rear yard of a residence. With precise direction from AIR-1, ground officers apprehended the individuals without incident. One passenger was arrested on the strength of an outstanding warrant and was found to be in possession of both cocaine and methamphetamine.

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Stolen Vehicle

On the evening of February 23, Winnipeg Police Service officers located a stolen GMC pickup truck and enlisted the assistance of AIR-1. A coordinated aerial follow was initiated. The suspect eventually parked the vehicle and fled on foot, discarding the keys in the process—an action observed by AIR-1 officers. Ground units were directed to the location, resulting in the arrest of the suspect, who was found to be the subject of seven outstanding warrants.

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Vehicle Break-in

In the early morning hours, a report was received concerning a suspicious individual unlawfully entering vehicles at a dealership near Portage Avenue and the Perimeter Highway. AIR-1 responded swiftly, located the suspect, and guided ground officers to effect a safe arrest. The individual was in possession of a weapon, had an outstanding warrant, and was in breach of several court-ordered conditions.

MARCH 2, 2024

Vehicle Fire

While conducting routine aerial patrols over the city, AIR-1 officers observed a vehicle engulfed in flames near Des Meurons Street and De La Cathédrale Avenue. The Communications Centre was promptly notified, and the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service was dispatched to respond to the incident.

MARCH 8, 2024

Break and Enter

Late in the evening, police received information regarding several armed individuals inside a downtown apartment building. Upon police arrival, the suspects fled via a stairwell. From their vantage point, AIR-1 officers observed two suspects gain access to the rooftop and subsequently descend the building's exterior balconies. One entered a seventh-floor balcony; the other forcibly gained entry to an eighth-floor suite. Both individuals were subsequently apprehended with the guidance of AIR-1.

AIR-1 RCMP ASSISTS

AIR-1 assisted the RCMP in 3 separate pursuit incidents. AIR-1 coordinated with RCMP and WPS ground units resulting in the apprehension of 5 suspects.

FIRE EVENTS

AIR-1 provided aerial support to the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service on 29 occasions. In six of these incidents, the fires had not yet been reported by the public. AIR-1 crews identified the fires and promptly notified WFPS, resulting in the timely dispatch of fire personnel.

FEATURED INCIDENTS

MARCH 12, 2024**Robbery**

In the early morning near Main Street and Broadway, a pedestrian was confronted by a group of males armed with a machete who demanded his belongings. AIR-1 responded promptly and located the suspects based on the victim's description. The suspects were tracked and ultimately detained by attending ground officers. Subsequent investigation linked the individuals to additional robberies committed earlier that evening.

APRIL 3, 2024**Arson**

A suspect damaged multiple windows and deployed an incendiary device in an effort to ignite a vehicle and a nearby commercial property. AIR-1 attended the scene and quickly identified the suspect, who attempted to flee on foot. Ground units, directed by AIR-1, apprehended the individual, and relevant evidence was recovered in the vicinity.

MAY 10, 2024**Stolen Vehicle**

Following a pursuit initiated by General Patrol officers, AIR-1 coordinated a multi-jurisdictional response with the RCMP, tracking the stolen vehicle to Clandeboye, Manitoba. The suspect fled on foot but was apprehended shortly thereafter through direction provided by AIR-1.

JUNE 9, 2024**Missing Child**

AIR-1 responded to a report of a missing four-year-old child. After conducting an aerial search and receiving a detailed description, AIR-1 located the child approximately one kilometer from the reported location and guided officers to reunite the child safely with their family.

JULY 3, 2024**Weapons Offence**

Responding to a report of a suspect armed with a knife and confronting occupants in a vehicle, AIR-1 arrived within seconds, located the individual, and directed responding officers. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident.

JULY 7, 2024**Commercial Robbery**

AIR-1 assisted in the search for suspects involved in the robbery of a convenience store. While providing aerial support to K9 and patrol officers, AIR-1 identified a suspect attempting to hide atop a residential rooftop. Direction was provided to ground units, resulting in the suspect's arrest.

AUGUST 7, 2024**Firearm Incident**

AIR-1 self-assigned in support of Tactical and General Patrol officers responding to reports of two individuals who had threatened residents with a firearm before fleeing. AIR-1 located the suspects and guided resources to effect their arrest. A firearm was recovered.

AUGUST 8, 2024**Assistance to CP Police**

AIR-1 was requested by CP Police to assist in tracking a suspect observed attempting to board a moving train in the rail yard. The suspect subsequently attempted, unsuccessfully, to steal both a parked vehicle and a motorcycle, all while being monitored by AIR-1. In cooperation with CP Police, the individual was safely taken into custody.

FEATURED INCIDENTS

AUGUST 30, 2024**Stabbing Suspect Tracked**

Tactical Support and K9 officers requested AIR-1's assistance in locating a suspect linked to multiple violent assaults. AIR-1 located the suspect near a city riverbank and observed him discard items into the water. Coordinating with ground officers, the suspect was apprehended and the discarded items recovered.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2024**Missing Child**

Late in the evening, AIR-1 assisted in the search for an eight-year-old child reported missing. After a meticulous search, the child was located hiding beneath a parked vehicle. The child was safely returned to their guardian with assistance from ground units.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**Stolen Vehicle**

General Patrol officers located a stolen vehicle and engaged AIR-1 for aerial support. The vehicle eventually parked beneath the canopy of a Winnipeg hospital. The occupants fled, seeking concealment in the backyard of a nearby residence. AIR-1 provided precise coordinates to ground officers, who effected the arrests.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**Assault**

Police received an emergency report of a male physically assaulting a female outside a residence. AIR-1 quickly identified the fleeing suspect as he moved through residential yards. Officers were guided directly to his location and apprehended him without incident.

OCTOBER 24, 2024**Stolen Vehicle / Break and Enter Series**

In the early hours of October 24, officers observed a stolen U-Haul box truck linked to a series of commercial break-ins. AIR-1 located and tracked the vehicle, coordinating with patrol officers until it came to a stop. The suspect was apprehended upon exiting the vehicle. Subsequent investigation revealed the individual was responsible for seven break-ins and had seven outstanding arrest warrants.

DECEMBER 20, 2024**Abduction and Firearm Recovery**

AIR-1 assisted investigators in locating a suspect involved in a violent abduction and extortion case. The suspect was observed exiting a vehicle and discarding an item, which AIR-1 subsequently identified as a firearm. Ground officers were notified, and the suspect was arrested. The weapon was recovered and secured.

FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT EVENT STATISTICS

Sorted by the percentage of attendance to specific call types while airborne

	ATTENDED	% DURING FLIGHT
TRAFFIC PURSUIT	11	69%
FOLLOW	82	69%
SUBJECT PURSUIT	4	36%
LOCAL ALARM	2	33%
GUN	133	32%
STAB	61	29%
ABDUCT	22	28%
SHOTS	40	22%
STOLEN VEHICLE	13	21%
COMMERCIAL BREAK IN	37	20%
DANGER	37	17%
RESIDENTIAL BREAK IN	94	16%
BOMB	2	14%
PERSON ROBBERY	41	14%
FIGHT	37	14%
WEAPON	63	12%
LOCATED STOLEN VEHICLE	17	11%
HOLDUP ALARM	11	10%
FIRE	25	10%
COMMERCIAL ROBBERY	27	9%
BREAK AND ENTER – OTHER	5	9%
ASLTW	27	9%
TRAFFIC	60	8%
SUSPICIOUS	74	8%
ASSAULT WEAPON	16	8%
CHILD	23	8%
BURGLAR ALARM	12	7%
ASSAULT	79	7%
PROWLER	7	6%
MISSING PERSON ASSIST	28	6%
OFFICER NEEDS ASSIST	5	5%

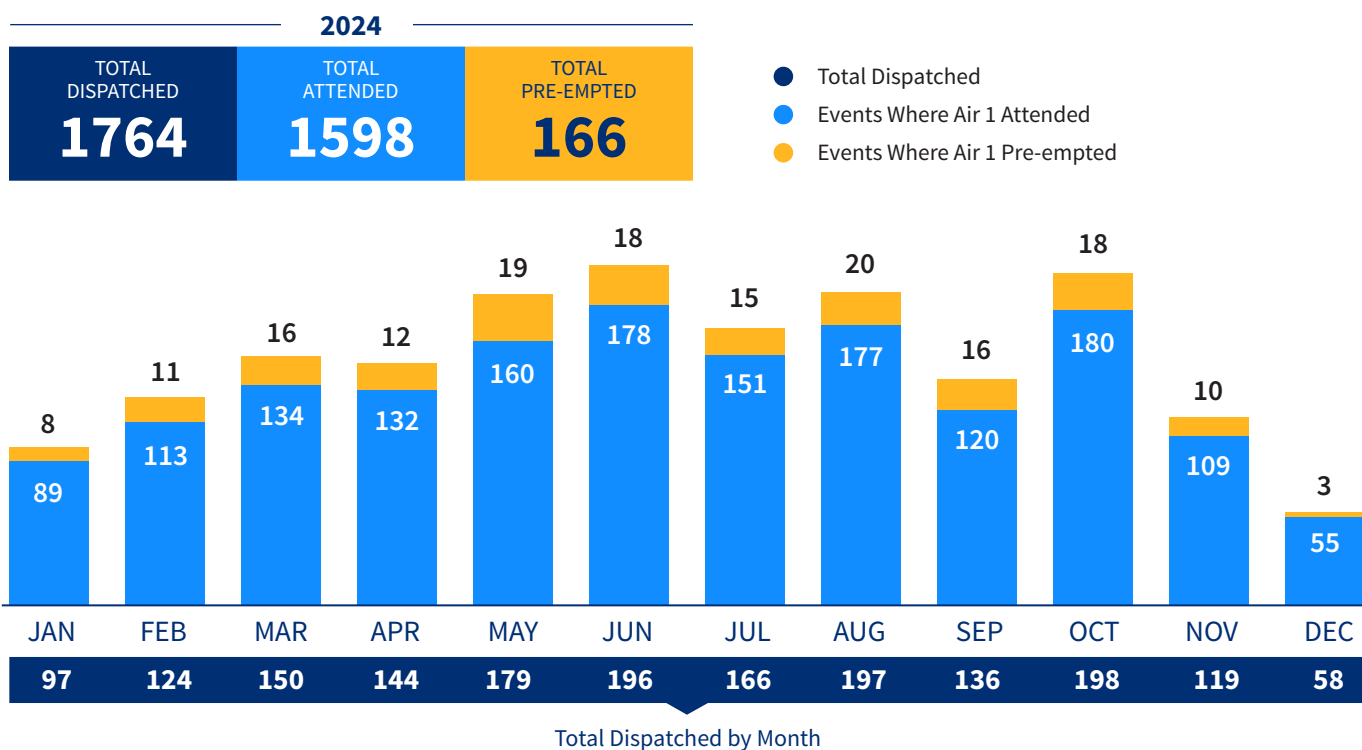
	ATTENDED	% DURING FLIGHT
THREAT OF SUICIDE	62	5%
DAMAGE	5	4%
SPECIAL	2	4%
MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION	10	4%
DOMEST	131	4%
INSECURE PREMISE	2	4%
WELLBEING	127	4%
FAMILTRBL	45	3%
SEXUAL	4	3%
MEDIC	13	3%
WARRANT ENQUIRY	2	3%
THEFT	4	3%
WARRANT EXECUTION	1	2%
SHOPLIFTER	4	2%
THREAT	13	2%
ASSIST	6	2%
DISTURBANCE	32	2%
VICE	2	2%
ANIMAL	1	1%
FOUND PERSON	1	1%
IMPAIR	3	1%
BREACH	4	1%
SPECIAL ATTENTION	6	1%
WARRANT	5	1%
TRAFFIC STOP	15	0%
DISPUTE	1	0%
E911HANGUP	1	0%
MENTAL HEALTH ASSIST	1	0%

TOTAL AIR 1 ARRIVALS:

1598

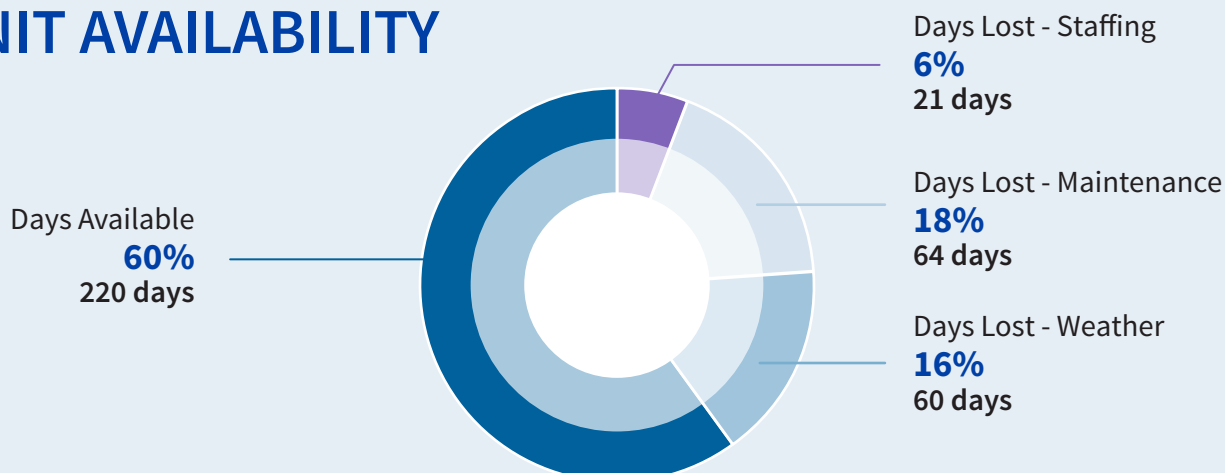
EVENT VOLUME BY MONTH

Total dispatched events (1764) includes all events attended (1598) as well as events that AIR-1 was cancelled while enroute or pre-empted themselves from attending (166).



TOTAL HOURS FLOWN	TOTAL INCIDENTS ATTENDED	TOTAL CAPTURES
864.4	1598	464
		Criminal Event 266
		Non Criminal Event 198

UNIT AVAILABILITY



DEMAND FOR THE FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT

With the goal of identifying and quantifying calls for service within the year where air support would have been deemed either appropriate and/or recommended (if available), an event algorithm was developed.

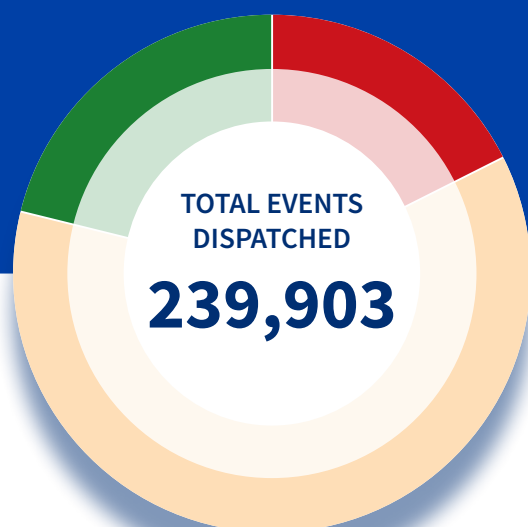
The parameters are as follows:

- The event was consistent with the Flight Operations Unit mandate
- The event was prioritized as an emergency or high-risk
- The event was resource intensive (7 or more units utilized)
- The event involved a risk-reducing unit or supervisor
(eg: Tactical Support Team, Canine Unit and/or Supervisor engagement)

The results revealed **42,648 events**, where one or more of the above factors were present.

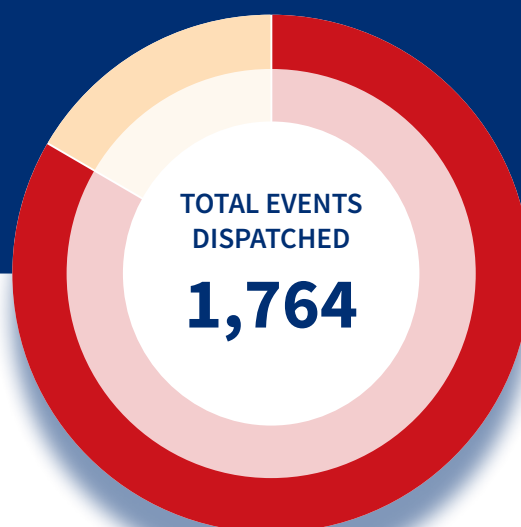
WPS

EVENTS DISPATCHED



FOU

EVENTS DISPATCHED



Keys

High Risk Events

Events that fit the parameters of the demand algorithm.

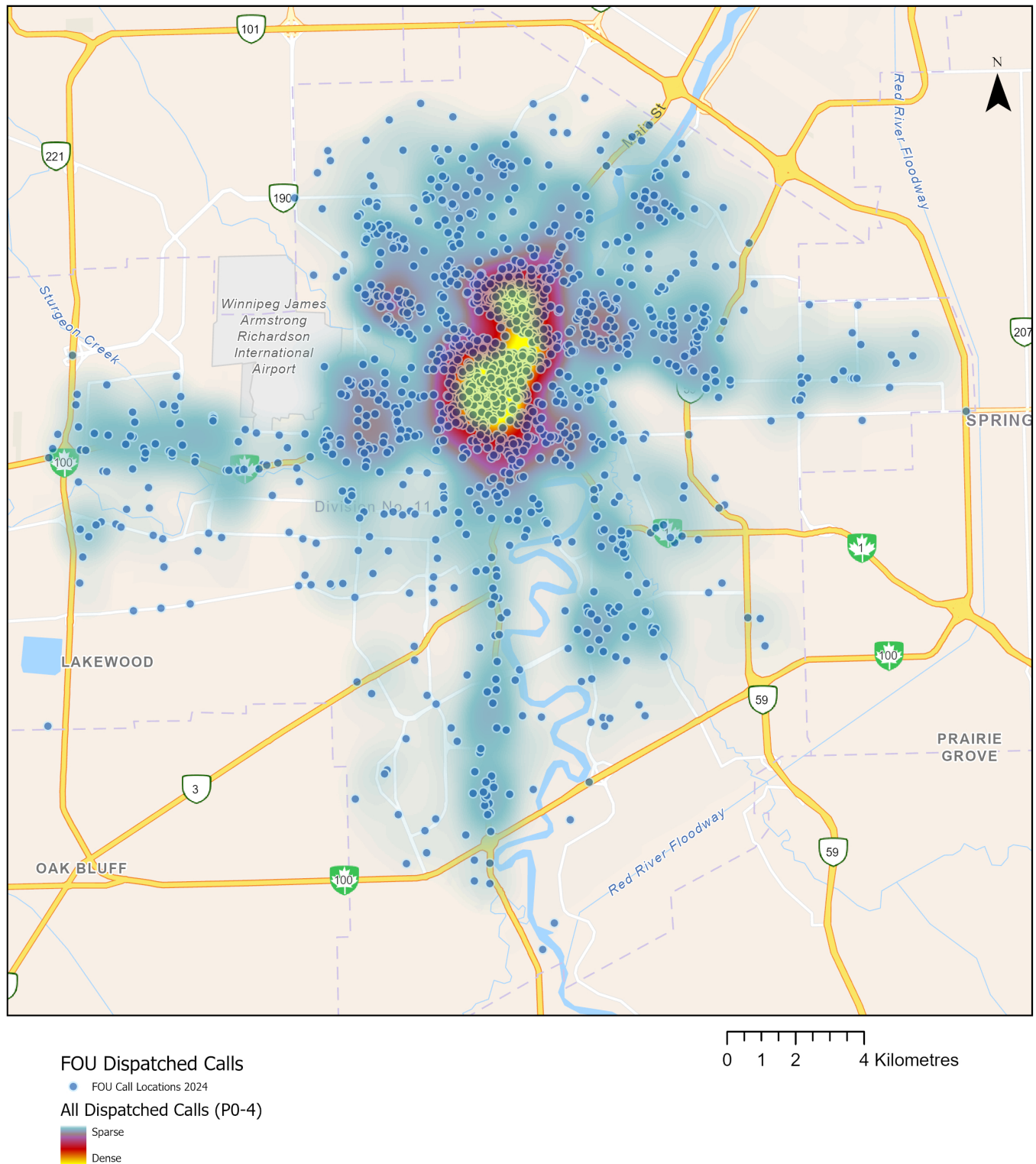
Low Risk / Lower Priority Events

Includes events that have a low probability of Air 1 attending but Air 1 may attend if available.

Events Inappropriate for Air Support

Includes walking the beat, radar/photo enforcement, transit visibility, etc.

2024 FOU Dispatched Locations Compared to Aggregated Locations for all High Priority Events



FLIGHT OPERATIONS **FINANCIAL HISTORY**

Flight Operations Unit operating costs

2024 \$2,029,577.00	2023 \$2,063,178.22	2022 \$2,640,228.06*
2021 \$2,268,167.00	2020 \$2,082,456.49	2019 \$2 172 474.46



* The primary driver of the increase in operating costs in 2022 was an unexpected replacement of the main gear box.



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