Community Report: Springfield Police Organized Retail Theft Grant - Spending vs. Outcomes (Q1–Q3)

Aug 25, 2025

Summary

Based on Springfield Police Department (SPD) public records for the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) grant, total spending was $330,528 across Q1–Q3. The program reports 17 arrests, 100 items recovered, and a total of $3,411 in recovery value. Overall cost-effectiveness is low in aggregate, with substantially better performance in Q1 and notably weaker performance after large equipment purchases in Q2–Q3.

Data Overview

This Data Overview summarizes the SPD's reported ORT grant expenditures by quarter and category (personnel, contractual services, equipment, supplies, training/travel) and the corresponding outcomes (staff deployed, items recovered and value, individuals encountered, arrests, citations, referrals, and ORT-related individuals) for activities between August 2024 and March 2025. Figures are drawn from SPD public records and presented as reported, with totals reconciled across quarters where possible. The aim is to provide a concise, at-a-glance baseline of spending and results across Q1–Q3 to support the subsequent analysis.

Spending

Category	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total
Personnel	$ 23,054	$ 81,022	$ 30,564	$ 134,640
Contractual Services	$ 308	$ 248	$ 372	$ 928
Equipment	$ -	$ 17,123	$ 168,505	$ 185,628
Supplies	$ -	$ 1,374	$ -	$ 1,374
Training / Travel	$ -	$ -	$ 7,958	$ 7,958
Total	$ 23,361	$ 99,767	$ 207,399	$ 330,528

Source: Q1-Q3 ORT Springfield PD Expense Reports, [1]*,* [2]*,* [3]

Reported Outcomes

Category	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total
Staff Deployed	11	4	9	

| Items Recovered	49	26	25	100
Total Recovery Value	$ 2,515	$ 244	$ 652	$ 3,411
Individuals Encountered	10	3	4	17
Arrests	10	3	4	17
Cited	0	0	0	0
Referred to DA	0	0	0	0
ORT Related Individuals	2	0	0	2

Source: Q1-Q3 ORT Springfield PD Operations Submissions, 1, 2, 3

Key Findings

1. Spending concentrated in equipment

- Equipment accounts for 56.2% of all expenditures, with $168,505 (90.8% of equipment spend) occurring in Q3.
- Personnel accounts for 40.8%, spread across all quarters.

Spending by Category
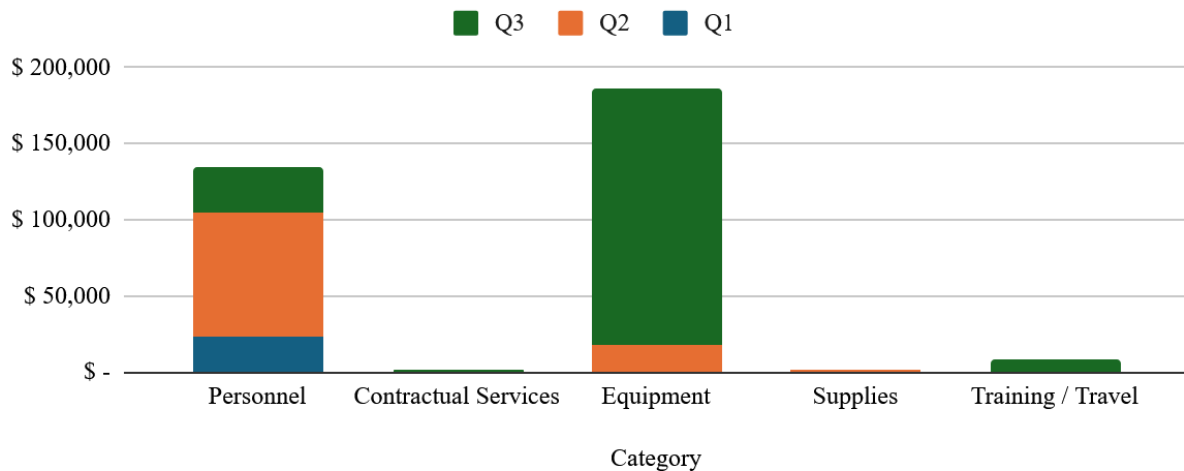
2. Outcomes are modest overall and front-loaded

- Q1 generated 58.8% of all arrests (10/17) and 73.7% of all recovery value ($2,515/$3,411) despite representing only 7.1% of total spending.
- Q2–Q3, which contain nearly all equipment purchases, produced fewer arrests (7 combined) and relatively low recovery values.

Arrests Per Quarter
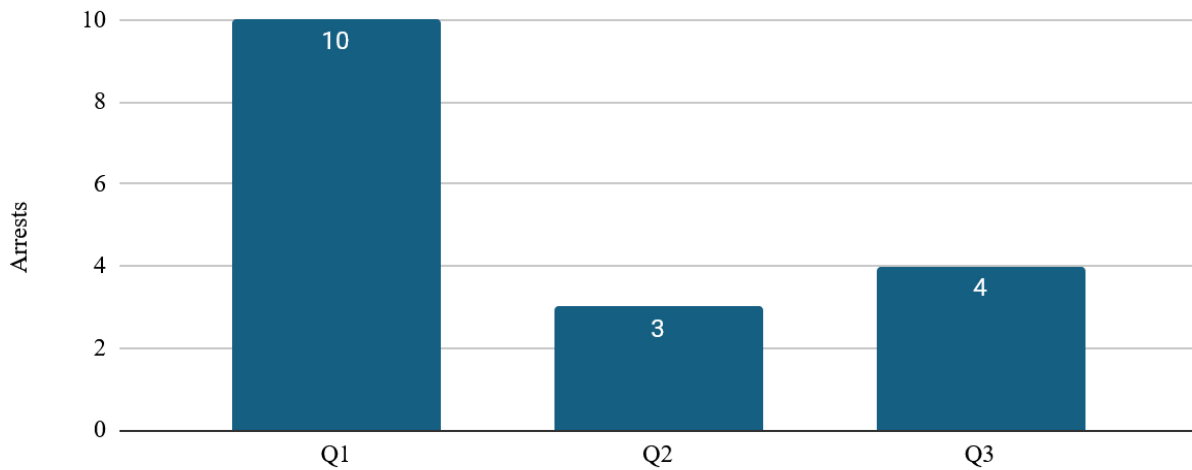
3. Cost-effectiveness metrics

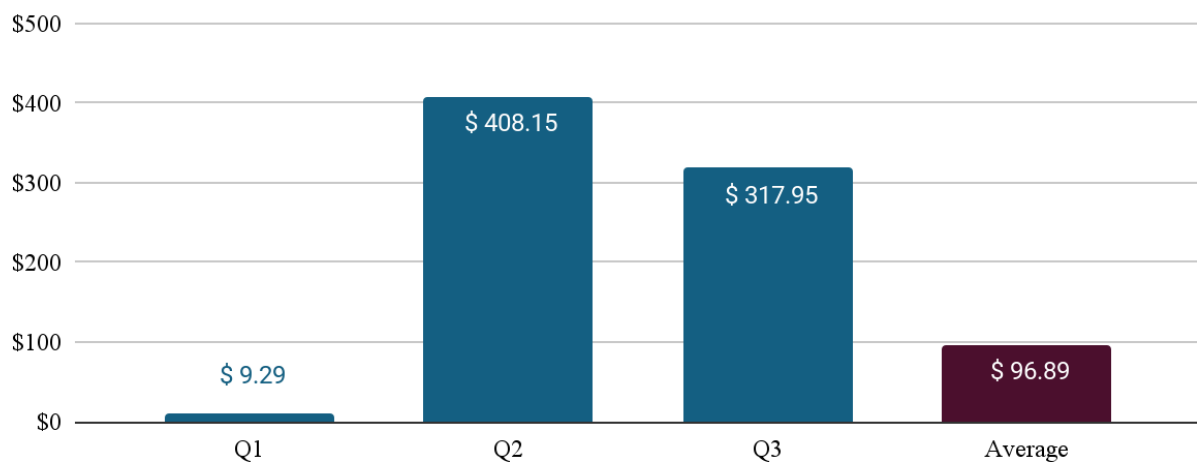| Metric	Q1	Q2	Q3	Average
Arrests Per $100,000 Spent	42.8	3.0	1.9	5.1
Cost Per Arrest	$ 2,336	$ 33,256	$ 51,850	$ 19,443
Cost Per Item Recovered	$ 477	$ 3,837	$ 8,296	$ 3,305
Spending Per $1 Recovered	$ 9.29	$ 408.15	$ 317.95	$ 96.89

As a frame of reference, RAND reports that the average cost of responding to a theft related crime in Oregon is $1,062[1].

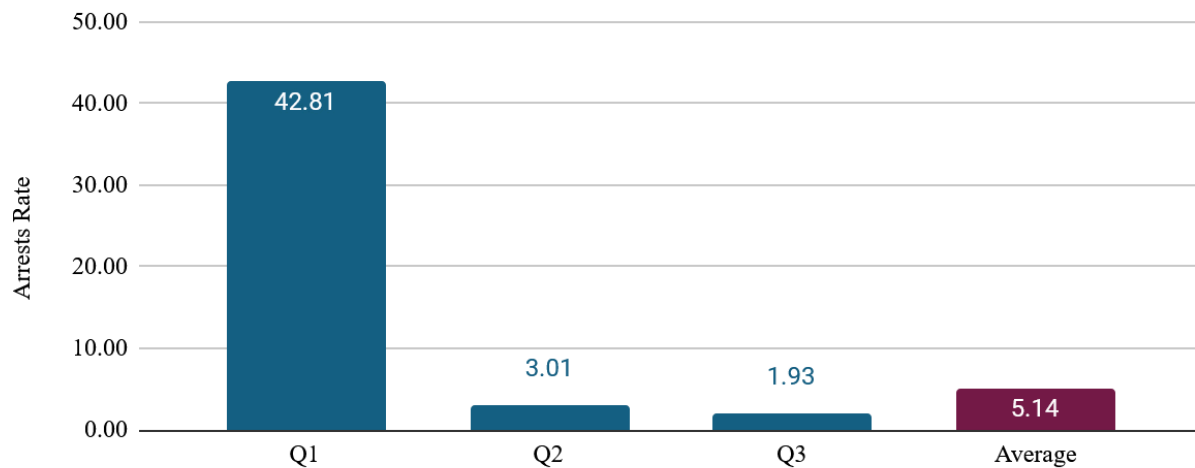[1] https://www.rand.org/pubs/tools/TLA517-1/tool.html

Cost Per Arrest
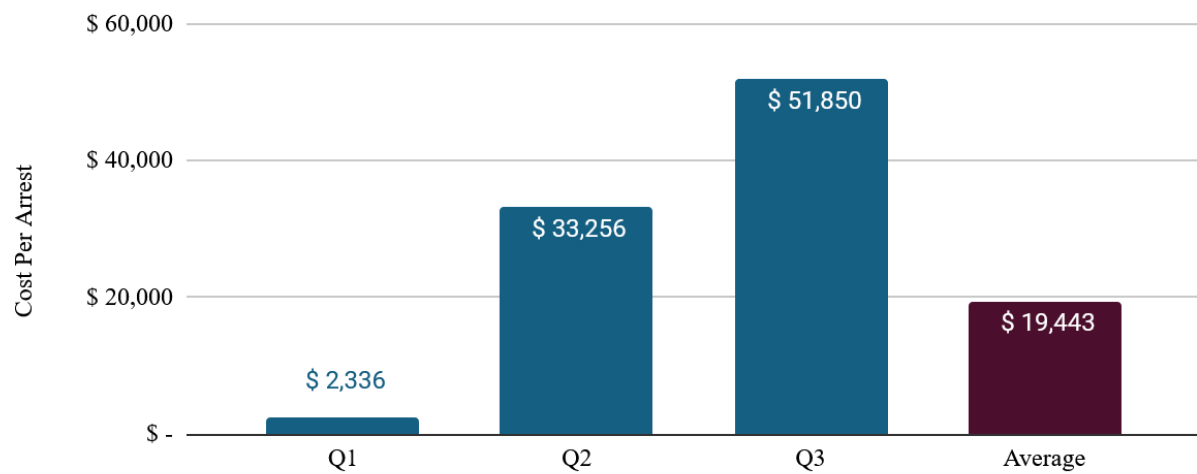
Spending Per Every $1 Recovered

4. Productivity indicators

Metrics	Q1	Q2	Q3	Average
Arrests Per $100,000 Spent	42.81	3.01	1.93	5.14
Arrests Per Staff Deployed	0.91	0.75	0.44	0.70
Avg Value Per Item Recovered	$ 51.32	$ 9.40	$ 26.09	$ 34.11

Arrests Per $100,000 Spent

Interpretation

- **High equipment procurement with limited outcomes**. With 56% of spending on equipment and weak outcomes in the same period, there is no observable improvement attributable to equipment within Q2–Q3. This invites scrutiny of procurement timing, deployment status, training, and alignment with operational needs.
- **Low prosecutorial outcomes**. Zero citations and zero DA referrals are notable given 17 arrests. That could reflect case dispositions, charging thresholds, or reporting practices.
- **Data structure concerns**. "Individuals encountered" equals "arrests" each quarter, which is unusual and suggests definitions or recording conventions that should be clarified. "Staff deployed" is reported, but not hours, roles, or operation days—limiting productivity analysis. Recovery value is small and inconsistent, particularly in Q2, raising questions about valuation methods and scope. Note that a grant estimate put total personnel time at approximately 1.2 FTE (*Source: 2024 ORT Grant SPD Budget Project*).

Questions that would improve clarity

- What is the definition of "staff deployed" (headcount vs. shifts vs. operation days)?
- What criteria determine "items recovered" and how is value assessed? Are high-value items undercounted or unvalued if not itemized?
- Why do "individuals encountered" match arrests exactly? Are non-arrest encounters excluded from reporting?
- How are zero citations and zero DA referrals explained?

Methodological Notes

- All figures derived directly from records obtained through public records request; arithmetic checks confirm totals.
- Because the dataset ends at Q3 and lacks operational timing details, findings reflect reported performance to date rather than a full program lifecycle.