



# 10-4

A weekly Q&A  
with local  
law enforcement

Submit your question to [news@owatonna.com](mailto:news@owatonna.com) or 444-2379

## **Q: What are the laws for operating motorized scooters and golf carts in the city?**

A: A motorized foot scooter, by state statute 169.225, is a device with handlebars designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator and that has either no more than two ten-inch or smaller diameter wheels or an engine or motor that is capable of a maximum speed of 15 MPH.

Scooters may be operated on streets without a driver's license. The scooter does not require a license, registration, or insurance. No one under the age of 12 can operate the bicycle and operators under the age of 18 must wear a helmet. No passengers are allowed on scooters. Scooters need to be equipped with a headlight and taillight. Scooters may not be operated on sidewalks except when it is necessary to go on or off adjacent property. Operators need to ride as close as practicable to the right-hand edge of the street.

State statute 169.045 is a guideline for cities to adopt an ordinance authorizing the use of golf carts on streets. At this time, the city does not have an ordinance for golf carts. The statute guidelines state that a golf cart can only be operated from sunrise to sunset, display a slow-moving vehicle emblem, and be equipped with a rear view mirror. Proof of liability insurance for the cart is required. At this time the city is permitting the use of golf carts under those guidelines. Once an ordinance is implemented, a permit will be required for operation per state statute. Golf carts do not have the same safety features as motor vehicles so accidents will likely result in serious consequences. Therefore, obey all traffic laws, practice good common sense, and be safe.

**OFFICER SEAN COOPER #7134**  
*Owatonna Police Department*