

Otis Steward  
Wood River Chief of Police

Otis has been a police officer since 1985. He was employed by the East Alton Police Department from 1985 until February of 1988 when he joined the Wood River Police Department. He has served as a Patrolman, Detective, Detective Sergeant, Deputy Chief and has been the Chief since August of 2011. Chief Steward is proud to be a member of the Greater St Louis Major Case Squad for the past 11 years with the last 3 as a Supervisor.

“Early in my career there was no CAC. This subjected victims of sex related crimes to several different interviews and a disjointed investigation with several entities conducting separate cases. The CAC provides a one stop process involving police, the state’s attorney’s office and DCFS. The CAC professional staff conducts interviews and provides follow up resources to the victims and families previously not known or available. Due to the diligence and cooperation of all parties involved the conviction rate on the offenders has increased significantly. I believe this has lead victims to feel more comfortable that offenders will be held accountable for their actions.” - Otis Steward