By 1885, the Department increased to 18 men. Its inventory of equipment was valued at $354 and included a horse and saddle, six dark lanterns, thirteen police stars, twenty rogues' pictures, and seven sets of "nippers."

In 1885, the 1st telephone was installed to provide better communication between officers in the field and Headquarters.

In 1886, Robert William Stewart, the City's first black officer, was hired. Stewart was born a slave in Kentucky and after the civil war, was freed and came to Los Angeles where he became a Los Angeles police officer and the first black officer in the entire United States.

On June 11, 1887, the Los Angeles Police Department's baseball team (The Police Nine) played a game of ball against the Town's Sheriff Department's baseball team (The Constable Nines) at Sixth Street grounds in Los Angeles. The Police Nine vs. The Constable Nine rivalry brought out a huge crowd, including Los Angeles Police Chief John K. Skinner, and other City officials, to watch the charity baseball game which was the first of many to come. The game raised $244.95 for Mrs. Watson's Home for Stray Girls.

Mrs. Lucy Gray became the first Police Matron in 1888. In those days, a police matron was not only custodian of the women prisoners, but served as attending nurse whenever a woman was brought to the City Receiving Hospital.