



P O L I C E M O N T H L Y R E P O R T

To: Richard Bronson, Town Manager
From: Lee Miller - Police Chief
Date: June 5th, 2025
RE: Police Department Report for May 2025

Monthly Stats: Law Incidents: 313, Traffic Stops: 105, Total Criminal Violations: 14

Police Department Updates

Message from Chief Miller

I want to take a moment to share how much I've truly enjoyed these last five months—it honestly feels like it's been longer, in a good way. While there are definitely some "why do we do that?" moments within the town, overall I'm very happy here and grateful I made the move.

If there's anything you think I'm missing or areas I should be focusing on, please don't hesitate to let me know. I welcome your input and value your perspective.

I have to say, we have some incredible people working in the police department—and throughout the town. As you probably already know, when we take care of our employees, support them, and genuinely care about them, the residence will see the level of service increase!

It's been encouraging to see positive changes happening within the department, and I know there's a lot more to come. I'll admit, I'm not the most patient person—I like to see results and progress right away. Sometimes that happens, and sometimes it takes a little longer. But rest assured, we're moving in the right direction.

Policies and Administrative

I'm proud to report that *all policy* has been reviewed, updated, and signed off by each officer. This is a major accomplishment, especially considering how many policies we have in place. It's certainly a lot to retain, but thanks to PowerDMS, officers can easily access any policy or form directly from the app on their phones.

To reinforce understanding and retention, we've implemented policy quizzes. These have been a helpful tool in making sure our training is sticking and that officers feel confident with our procedures.

Policies and Administrative cont....

Our Incident Review Committee met on May 29th to examine the February 12th officer-involved shooting. As I mentioned last month, this committee was formed to evaluate our response and determine what, if any, improvements need to be made in policy or training.

The committee includes:

- **Chief Chris Bailey** – Hampden Police Department
- **Lt. Brian Harris** – Maine State Police
- **Emily Gever** – Mental Health Professional
- **Dennis Bullen** – Public Works Director and community representative
- **Professor Cornel Plebani** – Eastern Maine Community College, with expertise in both law enforcement and mental health

We were given a thorough briefing by **AG Detective David Caron**, the lead investigator on the case. The presentation lasted several hours and included detailed information about the incident. The committee members were also provided with our policies and the relevant training records of the involved officers to review.

It's important to note that the case is still under review by the Attorney General's Office and has not yet been officially cleared. We have been advised that a decision is not expected until August at the earliest. This is standard in most police involved shootings

That said, some of the recommendations discussed by the committee have already been addressed—most notably, the implementation of body cameras, which were a clear priority. We remain committed to transparency and continuous improvement, and I appreciate the time and insight each committee member is bringing to this important process.

Patrol Highlights

Officer McMoarn has done an outstanding job coordinating the purchase of new patrol rifles using a \$5,000 grant we received late last year. Thanks to his efforts, we now have five frontline rifles that will be assigned to cruisers. This is a big step forward, as it allows us to phase out the practice of officers carrying personally owned rifles on duty—something I've never been a fan of.

The rifles are currently being upfitted and should be deployed to cruisers by July. While our long-term goal is to

Patrol Highlights Cont.

ensure every officer has access to a department-issued rifle, this is great progress and a solid foundation to build on.

Over the past month, our department handled several serious incidents that highlight some ongoing concerns in our community.

One notable case involved a domestic violence strangulation, which is classified as a Class B crime under Maine law. To provide some context, Maine categorizes crimes from Class E (least serious) to Class A (most serious), so a Class B offense is a significant and violent matter. Domestic violence continues to be a major issue in our region. I'm currently working with Partners for Peace on a grant that would allow us to expand support services for victims and improve our response capabilities, particularly in rural areas like ours.

In another incident, we investigated an intentional vehicle strike on a pedestrian, which resulted in an arrest for Aggravated Assault, also a Class B felony. This was a serious and targeted act, and we were able to identify and charge the suspect swiftly thanks to the work of our officers.

We are also seeing a noticeable increase in ATV-related issues. In one recent case, an ATV was driving on West Broadway, and the operator was issued a summons for operating an ATV on a public way, which is not permitted under town ordinance. While we support ATV riders and recognize their importance to our community and tourism, we must also enforce the rules in place to keep everyone safe and respectful of shared spaces.

These cases reflect the wide range of issues we manage day to day, and we remain committed to addressing them with fairness, diligence, and community collaboration.

Grants

We were officially able to sign up for the Walmart Sparks grant, I'm hoping to meet again with the Manager of the Lincoln Walmart in June to work on securing some funding.

Jag grant which is grant we receive every year, right now we are at the 2023 Jag year, this year we received around 1800 dollars. This can be used for law enforcement equipment. This year we are going to use the funds for a LIDAR which can be used by the officers instead of a Radar. A Lidar uses a laser to pin point a specific vehicle which will allow the officer enforce traffic in a different way. A good spot for this would be on W. Broadway.

Grants Cont...

It appears that wellness grant that was offered by state was award to our regional application they awarded 22 of these in the state and we were the only group that worked together to get this grant. That is a testimony to how well many of the area chiefs work together having a group that talks and cooperate with each other is so important. The regional group includes Lincoln Police and Fire, Hampden Public Safety, Orono Police and Fire, Old Town Police and Fire, and Veazie Police.

We're still waiting on the DOJ Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant, which will help cover 50% of the cost of our ballistic vests. It is usually out in May but many grants have been delayed These vests are essential safety equipment and have a five-year service life.

Community Outreach

We had an amazing time at our recent Tip-A-Cop event! Thanks to our partnership with Foresters and the incredible generosity of our community, we raised over \$1,700 for Special Olympics Maine.

It was a great day filled with laughter, connection, and purpose. We enjoyed working as a team, meeting so many community members, and supporting such an important cause. This is definitely an event we hope to make an annual tradition.

Thank you to everyone who came out, donated, and helped make the day a success—we couldn't have done it without you!



Community Outreach Cont.

I had the opportunity to stop by the Military Museum and share breakfast with a great group of veterans. It was an honor to spend time with them. These community members bring valuable perspectives, and sometimes they have questions about why we do certain things or why specific resources are needed. Taking the time to explain our reasoning often makes all the difference—and in turn, they become strong supporters of both the town and the police department.

We joined Region III, local veterans, and several Lincoln staff members to place flags in the cemetery in honor of those who served. It was a meaningful and humbling experience to be part of this service. A special thank you to the Region III students—it was great to see so many young people stepping up to help out!

We had the honor of participating in the Memorial Day Parade, which was a great event in support of our veterans. Senator Susan Collins stopped by to show her support, and I had the opportunity to speak with



her briefly. Senator Collins has been a strong advocate for law enforcement and continues to be a valuable asset when it comes to securing funding for public safety initiatives.

Also several of the staff were able to assist with the bike rodeo on May 31st. What a great success Shawn did a great job putting this together



Staffing

We're proud to announce that we'll soon have another Milner on the force! Kris' brother, Nick, has successfully completed all the steps in our hiring process and will officially join the department on **June 9th**. We'll have a second new hire that will be joining us soon, Noah House. Both Nick and Noah are from Lincoln. Noah current works at the Maine State Prison. Nick is currently on the list for the **August Police Academy**, and while we hope he gets in, Noah will be on the list soon.

As you can see, hiring the right people takes time — but it's worth it. We're focused on building the best team possible. We're still looking to fill two more positions, and we remain committed to finding the right fit for our department and our community.

The new Animal Control partnership has now been in place for two months, and I'm pleased to report that it's going very well for both us and the county. This collaboration has already made a positive impact, and I believe it has the potential to be a long-term solution to our ACO challenges.

So far, the contract is working as expected. I reviewed the first month's activity and found it aligned with our initial projections. We'll continue to monitor things closely throughout the remainder of the three-month trial period, but the early results are promising.

I'm excited to continue building this partnership and appreciate everyone involved for helping make it a success.

Detective's Office

This month, Detective Jacobs was recognized at the Maine Chiefs of Police Awards Banquet for his outstanding commitment to law enforcement. He received this honor for his exceptional work on the Lampson case—a well-deserved recognition for his dedication and thorough investigative work.

In other updates, Detective Jacobs continues to carry a health caseload. In addition to his investigative duties, he has taken the lead in reorganizing the evidence room. He successfully transitioned our entire evidence management



Detective's Office Cont.

system to a barcode-based system and set it up for each officer individually. This was a significant undertaking that has already greatly improved the organization and accessibility of our evidence storage.

While there are still additional improvements to be made as we work toward accreditation, this marks a major step in the right direction. Detective Jacobs' hard work has made a noticeable impact on our department's efficiency and professionalism.

Trainings

Officer Morales attended the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training hosted by Maine Highway Safety. ARIDE is a vital part of the core training every Lincoln Police Officer completes as part of our commitment to keeping our roads safe.

This advanced course builds on standard OUI detection and gives officers the tools to recognize impairment caused by drugs—not just alcohol. As impaired driving becomes more complex, our officers are staying ahead with the knowledge and training needed to take impaired drivers off the road.

Sgt. Winslow recently completed the Taser Instructor course and is now a certified Taser Instructor. All officers who carry a Taser while on duty are required to complete Taser training annually. Sgt. Winslow's certification ensures we can continue to meet this important requirement in-house.

Officer Winslow recently attended specialized training focused on sexual assault investigations. She has participated in several advanced trainings on this topic and serves as our lead investigator for the majority of sexual assault cases that come into the department. Her continued education and dedication help ensure these sensitive cases are handled with professionalism, compassion, and a victim-centered approach.

I had the opportunity to attend the annual Spring Maine Chiefs of Police Conference in Portland. These conferences are valuable not only for the professional development and training they offer, but also for the networking opportunities they provide. Connecting with other chiefs from across the state allows us to share ideas, discuss challenges, and learn from one another about what's working in their communities. Building these relationships strengthens our ability to collaborate and enhances leadership across departments. Attending training sessions alongside fellow chiefs also fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose in advancing law enforcement in Maine.

LD Laws and Case Law

This month, I'd like to highlight LD1823, a bill aimed at increasing transparency in the criminal justice system. This legislation requires the Attorney General to post the final decision of any criminal case in the state to the publicly accessible website of the Office of the Attorney General within 60 days of the case's final disposition. It also mandates that clerks of the District Court, Superior Court, and the Unified Criminal Docket do the same for cases within their respective jurisdictions.

Why is this important? As law enforcement, we often release press statements at the time of arrest, but the public is rarely informed of the outcome. This bill helps bridge that gap, allowing our community to see how cases are resolved. It's a step toward greater transparency and accountability, which ultimately builds trust between the public and the justice system.

The second bill I want to highlight is **LD 1971**. This bill outlines specific restrictions and guidelines regarding the relationship between state and local law enforcement agencies—including correctional facilities—and federal immigration authorities. Key provisions of the bill include:

1. **Prohibition on Immigration Enforcement Actions:** Law enforcement agencies would be prohibited from stopping, investigating, interrogating, arresting, or detaining individuals solely for immigration enforcement purposes. This includes restrictions on complying with immigration detainers or administrative warrants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), sharing inmate information, or providing agency resources or personnel for immigration enforcement activities.
2. **Clarification on Criminal Enforcement:** Agencies would still be allowed to arrest and detain individuals or perform law enforcement duties at the request of DHS, but only for suspected criminal activity or other reasons not based solely on immigration status.
3. **Limits on Task Force Collaboration:** The bill defines what is considered permissible collaboration between local law enforcement and joint law enforcement task forces.
4. **Detention Time Limits:** Individuals held solely for immigration enforcement purposes must be released as soon as possible, and no later than 48 hours.
5. **Rights and Protections for Inmates:** The bill requires agencies to inform inmates of their rights before being interviewed by immigration authorities. It also restricts the use of immigration status when determining access to educational programs, earned time credits, or custodial classification.
6. **Limits on State Employee Inquiries:** State employees, other than law enforcement officers, would be prohibited from inquiring about

7. immigration status unless it is required by law or necessary to provide a requested service.

While this bill attempts to clarify roles and responsibilities, it raises significant concerns for me. Personally, I have strong beliefs on this issue, but as Chief, I set those aside to focus on what matters most: upholding the law and honoring the oath we all took to support and defend both the U.S. and Maine Constitutions.

This bill puts law enforcement in a difficult position—potentially asking officers to disregard federal law or refuse cooperation with our federal partners. Public safety is not served when jurisdictions are isolated from one another. There are constructive ways to address immigration concerns, but undermining lawful collaboration with federal agencies is not the answer.

Law Enforcement in Action how we do the Job!

This month, I want to talk about how we use and report force in law enforcement. One of the first questions I asked when I started here was, “How many use-of-force incidents did we have last year?” The answer I got was, “None were reported.” I knew that couldn’t be accurate.

Since then, we went back through our records and were able to identify 12 use-of-force incidents in 2024. So far this year, we’ve had four.

So, what exactly is a *use of force*? It’s any action beyond a standard arrest that involves physical effort to gain compliance. This can include techniques like control holds, physical restraint, or the use of tools like Tasers.

Why do we report and investigate use of force? Because transparency matters. Our community deserves to know not only what we do—but why we do it. Any time force is used, the involved officer is required to complete a *Subject Resistance and Aggression Report*. That report includes key details, such as:

- Whether there were any injuries
- Whether the individual was under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- The type of resistance encountered
- The specific level of force applied
- The time, location, and circumstances of the incident

Once the report is submitted, either a sergeant or I conduct an initial review. We also review available

body camera footage, and in some cases, interview witnesses or the subject involved.

The level of force used determines the depth of the review. Regardless of the level, we always assess two key questions:

1. Was the force within department policy?
2. Was the force justified under the circumstances?

If the answer to either of those questions is no, the matter is investigated further.

At the end of each year, we compile and review all use-of-force incidents. This annual review is included in my year-end report and helps us identify trends—like if one officer is involved in multiple incidents, or if certain situations are occurring more frequently. The goal is to ensure accountability and improve how we serve our community.