



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: August 1st, 2025
RE: Police Department Report for July 2025

Police Department Updates

Message from Chief Miller

Loonfest 2025 was a tremendous success, and I want to thank everyone who made it possible. While this was my first Loonfest, I've participated in many similar events over the years, and I was thoroughly impressed



by the coordination, dedication, and community pride that went into making this one stand out.

From a public safety standpoint, our officers maintained a strong, visible presence throughout the weekend. They were approachable, helpful, and handled each situation with professionalism. Their commitment played a key role in ensuring a safe, welcoming atmosphere for both residents and visitors. Behind the scenes, the level of support and collaboration from town staff was exceptional.

Brenden and the Parks and Recreation team were a constant presence throughout the event—managing logistics, supporting vendors, and ensuring things ran smoothly. I was especially impressed by the energy and professionalism displayed by some of the younger members of his team. Their engagement was a credit to both their department and the community.

Kellsey, also from Parks and Rec, was instrumental throughout the weekend and particularly helpful with the parade. She handled logistics and coordination with confidence and efficiency, contributing directly to the parade's success.

Message from Chief Miller

Speaking of the parade, Amanda took the lead in organizing it and did an outstanding job. I've been involved with dozens of parades, and this one was among the best-run I've seen. It was organized, timely, and well-executed from start to finish. Amanda's leadership—alongside Kellsey's support—was a key factor in its smooth operation.

In the weeks leading up to Loonfest, Shawn dedicated countless hours behind the scenes. From coordinating logistics to spearheading fundraising efforts, his contributions were critical. Much of what made this event possible happened long before the crowds arrived, and Shawn's commitment ensured that all of those moving parts came together successfully. In short, Loonfest 2025 highlighted the strength of our team here in Lincoln.

From officers to organizers, planners to volunteers—everyone played a part in creating a safe, enjoyable event for our community. I'm proud of the role the police department played, and I'm equally proud to work alongside such dedicated individuals throughout the Town of Lincoln.

Policies and Administrative

Last month, we shared that we were actively implementing the PowerReady training system—and we're excited to announce it will officially roll out in August.

PowerReady is designed to better prepare new officers before they begin solo patrol, addressing one of law enforcement's ongoing challenges: providing consistent, high-quality training. The system delivers structured, scenario-based instruction, exposing officers to a wide range of call types and preparing them to handle situations safely and professionally.

The program doesn't stop at field training. It continues throughout the officer's probationary period, giving supervisors a clear way to monitor progress, offer feedback, and address any concerns early on. It also supports our veteran officers by creating a consistent, department-wide approach to performance documentation.

Policies and Administrative Cont.

One of the most significant advantages of PowerReady is its impact on annual evaluations. With accurate, real-time documentation, we're able to build clear, evidence-based assessments—making evaluations more fair, consistent, and meaningful. Just as important, this system promotes consistency in training and expectations, which ultimately helps reduce liability. Better trained officers mean safer outcomes, and PowerReady gives us the documentation to prove it.

We're excited to move forward with the rollout this August and believe this system will be a game-changer for our department's training, accountability, and culture.

The Animal Control position through Penobscot County continues to work well. We recently received the first three-month invoice, and it came in lower than anticipated, which is encouraging—though it's too early to know if that trend will continue. I also haven't received any complaints about the service so far. However, if you are hearing any concerns or issues related to this new process, please don't hesitate to let me know.

I believe our new website will be live in August. We're still in the early stages of development, working closely with Shawn, and I'm very excited about the direction it's heading. A strong online presence is an important reflection of our department's professionalism and a key tool for community engagement. The new site will feature user-friendly tools such as tip submissions, text alert signups, and property check requests—making it easier for residents to connect with us and enhancing transparency and service across the board.

Grants

As part of a \$138,000 regional Health and Wellness Grant, our department—alongside four other towns—will be participating in a comprehensive cardiovascular screening program. This collaborative grant effort was designed to support the health and safety of first responders across our region by funding advanced, preventative medical testing.

These screenings go well beyond a routine physical. They include in-depth blood work and cardiovascular analysis aimed at detecting early warning signs of

Grants Cont.

heart disease and other serious health issues—conditions that are often silent but potentially life-threatening if left undetected.

We'll begin the process in August with initial blood draws for both police and fire personnel. The company providing the testing will return in late September to complete the final stage of the screenings.

We're proud to share that 100% of our police department employees have signed up to participate. This is a significant opportunity, as each screening typically costs about \$850 per employee. By working together regionally, we secured funding that ensures every member of our police and fire teams has access to this potentially life-saving service—without the financial burden.

This is a big win not just for our department, but for the long-term health and wellness of our entire first responder community.

We are pleased to announce that the Lincoln Police Department has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to renovate and upgrade our evidence room. We are one of only six agencies statewide to receive this competitive state grant.

The primary focus of the funding is to improve the secure storage of firearms—a need I highlighted in a monthly report several months ago. This project will address longstanding storage challenges and ensure that all weapons and evidence are stored and handled in compliance with best practices and legal standards.

This upgrade will significantly enhance the integrity, organization, and security of our evidence operations. We're grateful for the support and look forward to implementing these critical improvements.

We're thrilled to announce that we've received a \$2,200 grant from Walmart in support of this year's National Night Out!

This generous grant will allow us to purchase equipment that can be used year after year, helping to make the event sustainable for the long term. It will also help cover supplies and items for this year's celebration.

We're incredibly grateful to Walmart for partnering with us on this opportunity to bring the community together. Their support helps make events like National Night Out possible—and memorable—for everyone.

Grants Cont.

We also received a \$1500.00 grant from the Hero Fund America grant community



grant. I put in this grant for guardian angel devices for each officer. These devices go on the officers and provide a flashing light when they are directing traffic or just need extra visibility.

We requested the first part of the \$5000 grant that we received from Maine Municipal. This grant helps fund the ability for us to become accredited. We got the first \$2500 and we'll get the second half after we become accredited. I have the goal of being accredited by the end of the 2026.

Staffing

Both Officer House and Officer Milner successfully passed their physical fitness tests for entry into the August police academy. Officer Milner has officially secured a spot and will begin the academy on August 18th. Officer House is currently second on the waiting list and is positioned to step in should an opening become available—something that commonly occurs within the first week.

We've seen a slow but steady flow of new applications, and our hiring process remains active as we continue working to fill two additional officer positions.

As we navigate through vacation season, staffing remains tight. Looking ahead, once our new officers are fully trained and on board, having consistent two-officer coverage will be a significant improvement for both safety and service delivery.

Trainings

This month, we held a department-wide meeting that also marked my six-month anniversary here in Lincoln. It was a great opportunity to bring the team together. We grilled up some farm-fresh burgers and shared lunch before sitting down to talk about what we've accomplished recently and what's ahead as we

Trainings Cont.

move into the new budget cycle. We did our first group photo we had an idea to do a picture in uniform and then a picture out of uniform with this idea on Facebook, this post had our 125,000 views.

We are just like you.

We are spouses, parents, children, siblings, and friends.

We have names.

We have hobbies.

We have dreams.

We wear a uniform but we are people too.

We work hard and we want to come back home.

We aren't that different, me and you.

We are just like you.



As part of our ongoing training efforts, we completed our annual rifle qualifications as a group. I'm proud to report that everyone successfully qualified. Thanks to a grant, we were able to purchase five department-issued rifles, which eliminates the need for officers to use their personal firearms and ensures consistency across the board.

Administrative Assistant Britny Worster recently attended training to become a certified child safety seat technician. This is a valuable addition to the services we can offer the community. Having Britny certified means we can assist families during regular business hours with proper car seat installation. Additionally, we now have access to free car seats for families in need, helping to keep our youngest residents safe.

Patrol Highlights

We recently completed our first mental health-focused community ride-along in partnership with CHCS (Community Health and Counseling Services). This initiative is part of our effort to integrate mental health counselors into police operations, allowing them to ride with our officers and respond directly to individuals in need.

I've met with CHCS leadership, and we're actively working together to expand mental health services in our area. One of the ideas we're exploring is having a counselor work out of our station one or more times a month. This would allow them to follow up with individuals we frequently encounter during mental health-related calls—offering consistency, support, and hopefully, better outcomes.

Sgt. Winslow had this to say after our first ride-along:

"Just wanted to touch base and let everyone know that our first day of doing ride-alongs was a huge success! Kate hit the ground running."

This partnership holds real promise. One of the most challenging aspects of law enforcement is repeatedly responding to the same households for ongoing mental health crises. With CHCS on board, we hope to bridge that gap and develop long-term solutions through collaborative care and support.

On July 31, 2025, the Lincoln Police Department, assisted by the East Millinocket Police Department with K9 Derby and Maine Probation and Parole, conducted a probation check at 600 Mohawk Road in Lincoln, leading to multiple arrests and a significant drug seizure. The check targeted Ann Lord, who was on active probation and residing at the address. K9 Derby alerted to the presence of narcotics in the residence and a nearby camper, prompting officers to secure a search warrant. During the operation, Scott Lord Sr. attempted to discard drugs—later identified as suspected fentanyl/heroin and crack cocaine—into nearby woods, resulting in his arrest. A subsequent search revealed additional drugs and a stolen vehicle. Ann Lord was arrested for a probation violation and drug possession; Scott Lord Sr. was charged with multiple offenses, including drug possession and receiving stolen property; James Carlow was arrested on an outstanding warrant; and Jules Michaud was charged with drug possession.

Detective's Office

Detective Jacobs has been diligently working on a complex theft case since February 2025. This investigation culminated in the issuance of a felony arrest warrant several weeks ago, and on July 24, 2025, the suspect was taken into custody.

Detective Brian Verney of the Salisbury (MA) Police Department notified our agency that his department had arrested Donald R. Taylor (DOB: 05/29/1984) at his residence in Salisbury. Taylor was taken into custody on multiple outstanding warrants, including Lincoln PD's Felony Theft (Class B) warrant, which was based on an affidavit submitted by Detective Jacobs. Detective Verney provided critical support throughout the investigation.

The case involves the alleged theft of funds and personal property from the Estate of Pauline Taylor. Through subpoenas and search warrants executed on Massachusetts-based financial institutions, over \$300,000 in estate funds were traced from the estate account into Taylor's personal checking account.

Additionally, some of the personal property reported missing from Lincoln has since been located at Taylor's Salisbury residence.

Taylor is expected to appear before a Massachusetts court prior to extradition to Penobscot County, where he will face prosecution. The investigation remains active and ongoing.

Law Enforcement in Action how we do the Job!

This month, I wanted to take a moment to speak about the First Amendment and how it applies in settings like council meetings or other public spaces. It's not uncommon for citizens to show up to express strong opinions—sometimes passionately—about local issues. The First Amendment guarantees the right to free speech, including the ability to speak at public meetings. But there are also rules and limits in place to ensure meetings can function effectively and safely.

Council meetings are considered "limited public forums." That means people have a right to speak, but the town also has the authority to set reasonable, content-neutral rules—like time limits, requiring speakers to stay on topic, and asking people not to disrupt the proceedings. A person can't be removed just because their opinion is unpopular or critical of government; however, if their behavior becomes disruptive, threatening, or prevents the meeting from continuing, the town—and law enforcement—can take action. Striking this balance is critical. Our job is to protect everyone's rights while helping ensure local government can operate in a respectful, productive environment.

Community Outreach

This month, I had the opportunity to meet with Partners for Peace. We're working together to strengthen our response to domestic violence incidents and protection order violations. Our goal is to build a collaborative approach that ensures victims receive the support and resources they need.

By partnering with this organization, we can immediately connect victims to valuable services during critical times. Their involvement enhances our ability to provide compassionate and effective assistance.

We've also started planning a Domestic Violence Awareness Walk in Lincoln this October, which is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This event will help raise awareness, show community support, and highlight the resources available to those in need.

This month, I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Shaw House. They offer a wide range of resources for youth up to 21 years old and are willing to work with us here in Lincoln when needed. Their services include emergency shelter, support with employment, and assistance in securing long-term housing. It's a valuable connection that can help us better support young people in crisis.

I attended the Save a Life board meeting this month and had a great opportunity to collaborate with Chief Merrill from the Orono Police Department. He was looking for meaningful ways to allocate funds from the opioid settlement and was open to recommendations. I was able to connect him with Save a Life, and as a result, he was able to contribute \$15,000 to support their mission. It's great to see local partnerships making a real impact.

LD Laws and Case Law

The Legislature is currently on summer break. One notable bill that passed but went unsigned by Governor Mills is the law restricting cooperation between federal and local authorities on immigration matters. Though unsigned, it will still go into effect and could impact how local agencies interact with federal immigration enforcement moving forward.

Monthly Stats: Law Incidents: 320, Traffic Stops: 128, Total Criminal Violations: 17