



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 29th, 2025
RE: Police Department Report for August 2025

Police Department Updates

Message from Chief Miller

This month brought a unique challenge with several team members taking well-deserved vacations. To ensure coverage, many of our officers worked extra hours so their colleagues could enjoy time off. I continue to be impressed with the dedication of our staff and the commitment they show to one another and to the community. In my eight months here, I've gained a true appreciation for just how busy Lincoln is. We respond to a significant volume of calls, and while some days are particularly demanding with only one officer on duty, we remain focused on building toward proper staffing levels to better meet the needs of our community.

I am also pleased to share that our first-ever **National Night Out**, held earlier this month, was a tremendous success. As with any new event, there were questions about turnout and impact, but the community response exceeded all expectations. Families, youth, and residents of all ages came together for food, games, music, and great conversation—creating an evening that showcased the strength of our community spirit. This success was made possible by the hard work and dedication of many individuals and organizations. Our sponsors were especially vital:

- **Walmart** – for their generous grant and volunteer support.
- **Steak & Stuff, Hannaford, and Dollar Tree** – for donating food.
- **McDonald's** – for providing all of the ice.

National Night Out demonstrated the value of partnerships and the power of community engagement. I want to sincerely thank everyone who participated, volunteered, or donated. We are already excited to build on this momentum for next year's event.

Policies and Administrative

Last month, I shared information about our newly formed partnership with Community Health and Counseling Services. I'm happy to announce that Kate from CHCS will now be working with us one day each month. Her role will be to assist with mental health, homelessness, and repeat call situations, helping us approach these issues in a non-law enforcement way. This partnership will allow us to connect more people with the services and resources they need.

One matter that requires our attention is the presence of mold in the Police Station, which is scheduled for discussion at the September workshop. I have spoken with the landlord, representatives from the state courthouse building, Penobscot Cleaning Services, and Mr. Nick Ferrala from the State's Safety and Environmental Services office to gather as much information as possible. The health and safety of our employees must remain our highest priority, and based on my discussions with Mr. Larkin regarding his proposed remediation plan, I have concerns that his approach does not meet the accepted standards for properly addressing mold. His plan does not include the use of a certified mold remediation company or the specialized equipment that is typically necessary to ensure the space is safe for occupancy. In fact, he initially indicated that staff would not even need to vacate the affected area, which contradicts best practices and raises significant concerns about safety.

In addition to the area currently being used by the Police Department, there appear to be other areas within the building that raise questions about possible mold concerns. Compounding the issue further, exterior problems with the property have not been addressed, which could continue to contribute to interior conditions if left unresolved. Despite these ongoing issues, the landlord has pressed to begin work inside the building. I have made it clear that remediation cannot proceed without a proper plan in place, carried out by qualified professionals, to ensure the work is done safely and effectively.

For comparison, when mold was discovered in the state courthouse, staff were relocated immediately out of precaution. This response highlights the seriousness with which mold issues should be handled and suggests we must also explore alternative solutions to protect our employees until proper remediation occurs. Mr. Ferrala echoed these

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same concerns, stressing the importance of ensuring that remediation is done correctly and safely. He further advised that the affected area should not be used as regular office space, while occasional entry to retrieve files may be permissible, full-time use of the space as a work area is not recommended.

Given these circumstances, it is important that we work with the landlord to ensure remediation is completed by a qualified professional using the appropriate methods and equipment, and that any contributing issues outside the building are addressed before repairs are attempted inside.

I attended the quarterly Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) regional council meeting, where we discussed a wide range of topics related to mental health. These meetings also provided the opportunity for me to help facilitate our new partnership with Community Health and Counseling, which will strengthen our ability to connect individuals with the services and support they need.

We were recently notified by the State that concealed weapons permit fees will be increasing effective **September 24th**. The new fee structure will be **\$50 for new permits** and **\$35 for renewals**. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first increase in permit fees in quite some time.

We are still waiting on a couple of the new cruiser to arrive before they will head to outfitter to get fitted for cruisers. I have one cruiser that the detective drives that I have taken off line as it can not pass inspection and will have a significant cost to fix.

Grants

Last month, we were awarded a \$25,000 grant to improve our evidence room storage. We are currently working on the design and exploring options to ensure the storage system will work effectively, even if it needs to be located in a different space.

In addition, we are preparing applications for two Highway Safety grants—one focused on speed enforcement and the other on OUI enforcement. These grants reimburse departments for enforcement details, and with additional staff, we'll be better positioned to complete them. As part of the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program, officers are required to complete specialized out-of-state training to gain certification. Highway Safety covers the cost of

Grants Cont.

this training, and I will be submitting the grant request to ensure our officers can participate.

We recently received funding through the Community Foundation grant, which allowed us to purchase Guardian Angel safety lights this month for all of our officers. These lights can be worn on their uniforms to increase visibility when directing traffic and can also serve as an additional flashlight when needed.

Staffing

Officer Nic Milner and Officer House were officially sworn in as police officers the week before leaving for the police academy. This was a special milestone in their careers, and we encouraged them to invite their families to share in the moment and celebrate this important step together.



Officer Nic Milner and Officer House have now completed their first few weeks at the police academy.

When I checked in with Officer Milner last week, he shared that things are going well, saying, *"It's good actually—a change that I needed."* They have about 16 weeks remaining before graduating in December. Following graduation, they will begin three to four months of field training before moving on to solo patrols.

On the hiring front, we are still working to fill two open positions. We have a second interview scheduled next week, and if that goes well, we will move forward with the next steps in the process.

Trainings

We are excited to share that Officer Morales has been accepted into the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) School. This specialized training equips officers with the skills to evaluate individuals suspected of operating under the influence of drugs. DREs conduct a series of detailed assessments to determine impairment and identify which of the seven drug categories may be involved. I previously served as both a DRE and a DRE instructor for more than ten years, and I can say with confidence that having a DRE on staff is a tremendous asset to our department.

We also had the opportunity to send Officer Peters to two valuable School Resource Officer (SRO) trainings. The first was a foundational course on the role of an SRO, and the second focused on school safety—specifically, how to assess risks and develop comprehensive safety plans for our schools.

Additionally, we launched a new online training program for our supervisors through the Daigle Law Group, one of the nation's leading law firms specializing in law enforcement liability and training. This program delivers monthly courses that address a wide range of supervisory responsibilities. As the “gatekeepers of liability,” our supervisors must be among the most knowledgeable members of our department, ensuring they can provide sound guidance and the right answers to the officers they lead.

Patrol Highlights

In August, we responded to several notable incidents. One involved a burglary in which a suspect had unlawfully moved into a residence without any legal right to be there. The individual was arrested and additionally charged with violating bail conditions and possession of an unlawful scheduled drug.

We also discovered someone camping on the mill site property. Initially, we believed it to be the same person we dealt with earlier this summer, but this individual had also planted marijuana plants on the property. Working with the Warden's Service, we set up a camera that fed directly to Detective Jacobs' phone. This allowed us to capture an image of the suspect, respond quickly to the area, and locate him.

Patrol Highlights Cont.

The suspect was found to be wanted for probation violation, and during the attempted arrest, he assaulted a warden. He was ultimately taken into custody and charged with multiple crimes, including criminal trespass and assault on an officer.

Later in the month, we assisted the fire department with a wildfire believed to have been started by a vehicle. Our team worked alongside firefighters, and we retrieved additional hose to help them reach deeper into the woods. Officer Milner also deployed our drone to assist in identifying and monitoring hot spots.

Community Outreach

I met with both the high school and middle school administrations to discuss the role of our School Resource Officer (SRO) and to establish clear guidelines moving forward. These meetings were also an opportunity to reinforce the importance of maintaining a strong working relationship, ensuring that administrators feel comfortable reaching out to me at any time. It is important to me that their expectations of the SRO are being met and that we continue to build trust and collaboration. Both school reassured me that the program works well. They recently moved Officer Peters office in the high school to the front of the school, she has access to cameras and the ability to be more visible.

As the school year begins, our priority is for the SRO to review and understand each school's safety plan and to work closely with administrators to ensure that safety remains a top priority across all of our schools.