




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

To: Dennis Bullen, Interim Town Manager
From: Lee Miller - Police Chief 
Date: January 30th, 2026
RE: Police Department Report for January 2026

Police Department Updates

Message from Chief Miller

I had a great opportunity to meet with four councilors who were able to come in, receive a tour of the facility, and spend time discussing our police operations and where I see the department heading in the future. During these meetings, I also shared and reviewed our annual end-of-year report with each of them.

For those councilors who have not yet had the opportunity to meet with me, I will be forwarding the report for your review as well. You can also find it on our website.

The annual report outlines our mission and provides an overview of the past year, including new hires, training, a summary of calls for service, grants applied for and awarded, community engagement efforts, injury reporting, use-of-force data, and reports from our detective and School Resource Officer.

Policies and Administrative

We are officially voted in to participate in the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (MLEAP).

This program consists of 164 standards that must be met to ensure best practices in law enforcement.



My goal is to have the department accredited by the end of 2026, and hopefully sooner. We received a \$5,000 grant to help launch this effort, and once accredited we will also see a 25% reduction in our law enforcement insurance costs—saving the department more than \$2,000 annually.

Working through all of the standards will take time, as it requires a thorough review of our operations and documentation to ensure we are policing in accordance with best practices. This process provides

Policies and Administrative Cont.

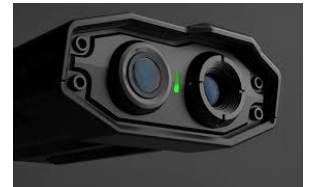
important checks and balances and helps strengthen the department overall.

In addition, I have been actively working on several policy updates and getting those out to staff to ensure everyone is operating under clear, current guidance.

Grants

We are pleased to announce that the Lincoln Police Department has been awarded Congressional funding in the amount of **\$565,000** to enhance public safety through the use of License Plate Reader (LPR) technology.

This funding will allow us to deploy **multiple fixed LPR systems throughout town**, as well as **mobile LPR units in our patrol vehicles**. In addition, the grant includes funding for **mobile traffic safety trailers** equipped with LPR technology, message boards, and radar systems that collect traffic data.



Importantly, this funding covers **all hardware, licensing, and ongoing operational costs for the first five years**, placing no financial burden on local taxpayers. Several other communities in Maine were also awarded similar grants as part of this initiative.



LPR technology is a proven public safety tool. It assists law enforcement with **school safety, drug activity investigations, locating missing persons, active criminal investigations, and traffic crash analysis**, among many other uses. These tools help officers respond more effectively and efficiently while keeping our community safer.

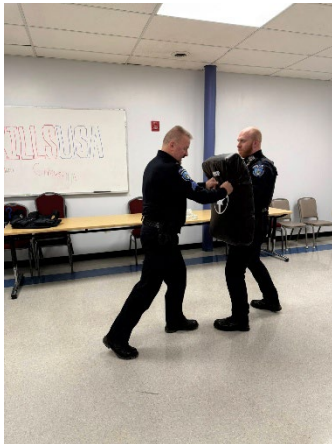
Grants Cont.

We are fortunate to receive this funding, and its implementation will significantly strengthen our ability to reduce drug activity and enhance overall public safety in Lincoln.

We are waiting further on some Emergency Management Agency.

Trainings

We stayed busy this month with training across the department. Several of our newer officers completed certification on the Taser 7, along with baton and handcuffing training. We also conducted refresher training on radar and LIDAR to ensure continued proficiency in traffic enforcement.



Our two newest officers spent time at the indoor firearms range completing required qualifications prior to attending the academy. In addition, Officers Manna and Denlinger attended a one-day academy boot camp to better prepare them for the physical and academic demands they will face when they report to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy on February 2nd.



We're also proud to share that Officer Morales successfully became a certified Breath Testing Instructor through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. This will be a great benefit to the department, as breath testing requires regular recertification and having an in-house instructor strengthens our training capabilities.

Trainings Cont.

Ongoing training—both in-house and specialized—is critical to building confident, capable officers and ensuring we continue to serve our community at the highest level.

Patrol and Detective Highlights

During the past month, officers responded to a number of traffic-related violations, including operating after suspension and improper plates. We also investigated several theft complaints reported throughout the community.

One notable incident involved a driver who failed to stop for officers, leading to a brief pursuit. The incident ended when the vehicle became stuck in a snowbank. Thankfully, no injuries were reported. The driver was taken into custody and charged with eluding law enforcement and Operating Under the Influence.

Our investigators continue to work diligently on a number of ongoing cases. Detective Jacobs is currently investigating a fatal overdose, with a focus on identifying the source of the drugs involved. Several additional investigations remain active as we continue working to keep our community safe.

Community Outreach

We've added a new feedback section to our website where community members can submit compliments or complaints. Any complaint received through this form will be handled the same way as any other complaint we receive. This is simply another way for us to be accountable and accessible to the public we serve.

This month, we were proud to assist with the warming shelter at the library by providing personnel to help ensure a safe and welcoming space for those in need.

Staffing

We are excited to welcome our newest officer to the Lincoln Police Department. On January 20th, Officer Dylan Denlinger officially joined our team and was sworn in this week alongside Officer Manna.

Officer Denlinger comes to us from the Old Town Police Department and will be attending the police academy next week with Officer Manna. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Officer Denlinger moved to Maine to attend Husson University, where he graduated in 2025 with a Bachelor's degree in Conservation Law and a minor in Biology. He currently resides in Burlington with his family.

A lifelong outdoor enthusiast, Officer Denlinger enjoys hunting, fishing, and taking advantage of everything Maine has to offer. He has aspired to become a police officer since childhood, motivated by a strong desire to serve others, make a difference, and give back to the community.



We are proud to officially swear in Officer Denlinger and welcome him to the Lincoln Police Department. We wish both Officer Denlinger and Officer Manna the best of luck as they begin the academy and take the next step in their law enforcement careers.



LD Bills, New Laws and Case Law

Red Flag Law Update (Effective Late February)

As discussed last month, Maine's voter-approved Red Flag Law will go into effect near the end of February. This law allows certain individuals to petition the court directly for an Extreme Risk Protection Order. It is important to note that this does not replace Maine's existing Yellow Flag process, which law enforcement has been successfully using for several years.

From both an officer safety and public safety standpoint, the Yellow Flag process remains the preferred approach. It requires law enforcement involvement from the outset, includes a professional mental health evaluation, and allows officers to assess risk, de-escalate situations, and manage safety concerns before any firearms are removed.

Under the Red Flag Law, orders may be issued without initial law enforcement or clinical involvement, which can create more unpredictable and potentially

dangerous situations when officers are later tasked with serving those orders.

In preparation for the law taking effect, there will be upcoming training sessions to review how the Red Flag Law works and how it will be implemented.

Department policy will also be reviewed and updated prior to the law going into effect.

We continue to encourage community members to bring concerns directly to the police department whenever possible so they can be addressed through the Yellow Flag process, which has proven to be the safest and most effective option for officers, individuals in crisis, and the public.

Monthly Stats: Law Incidents: 303, Traffic Stops: 91, Total Criminal Violations: 12 – As of January 30th