




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

To: Dennis Bullen, Town Manager
From: Lee Miller - Police Chief 
Date: April 2nd, 2026
RE: Police Department Report for March 2026

Police Department Updates

Message from Chief Miller

We've made it through March—always a long month—but with it comes the promise of spring and summer just around the corner.

The department remained busy throughout the month, handling a wide range of calls while continuing to work toward full staffing. Hiring and training new officers is a deliberate process, but it's a necessary investment to ensure we have a strong, capable team out on the road serving the community.

At the same time, we've been focused on preparing next year's budget, carefully evaluating our needs to make sure the department is properly equipped and positioned moving forward.

In addition, I've continued working through the accreditation process for the department. We've made solid progress updating policies and completing required training. In April, I'll be conducting a thorough review to ensure everything is in place, with the goal of achieving accredited agency status by this summer.

Policies and Administrative



This month, we also celebrated International Women's Day. We are fortunate to have several incredible

Policies and Administrative Cont.

women in our department who make a meaningful impact on both the department and our community. Thank you to each of them for all that they do.

I recently received notice that the school department was considering eliminating the School Resource Officer position. I attended the school board's budget workshop the other night, and I'm pleased to report that, for now, the position remains in the budget.

Patrol and Detective Highlights

We handled several OUI cases this month, along with a significant traffic stop that resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of cash and illegal drugs. Please see the press release below for additional details.

Driver Arrested Following Report of Erratic Operation; Drugs, Firearm, and Cash Seized

On March 9, 2026, at approximately 7:30 a.m., officers responded to the area of West Broadway and Penobscot Valley Avenue following a report of an erratic driver. A caller reported that a black Mazda CX-50 bearing Massachusetts registration was swerving, speeding up and slowing down, and nearly leaving the roadway.

Officers located the vehicle stopped in the roadway near the intersection of West Broadway and River Road. The operator, later identified as Anthony Smith, 31, of Clifton, appeared to be unconscious behind the wheel.

After officers made contact, Smith exited the vehicle. During the interaction, officers observed suspected drug paraphernalia in plain view inside the vehicle. Further investigation revealed additional evidence of illegal drugs as well as a firearm.

A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of:

- Approximately 500 grams of suspected illegal drugs, which included cocaine, fentanyl, and methamphetamines

Patrol and Detective Highlights Cont.

- \$4,656 in U.S. currency
- A single-shot firearm
- Ammunition and additional drug paraphernalia

Smith was taken into custody and transported to the station for further investigation. Officers also conducted an investigation into operating under the influence. A drug recognition expert from the Brewer Police Department assisted with this evaluation.

Smith was ultimately charged with the following offenses:

- Aggravated Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs (Class A) – two counts



- Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person (Class C)
- Criminal Operating Under the Influence – Drugs (Class D)
- Operating After Habitual Offender Revocation (Class D)

Following the investigation, Smith was transported to Penobscot County Jail.

Grants

We were fortunate to have our new evidence room installed thanks to a state grant, which will cover the entire cost of around \$22,000—meaning this upgrade came at no expense to our department. For a couple of weeks, we operated out of a temporary evidence space, but the installation team quickly set up the permanent room.

Grants Cont.

Since then, we've completed a full audit of all items, which are now properly secured in the new evidence room. Detective Jacobs is putting the finishing touches on the organization, and these improvements will make a significant difference in our operations. With this upgrade, we are well-positioned to move forward with our accreditation process in the coming months.



Community Outreach

We got a special visit to the station this month, Coach House stopped by with the girls basketball teams gold ball and we were honored to grab a photo with it.

Congratulations to the girls' basketball team and to the staff, parents, and others behind the scenes who made this possible.



Trainings

This month, our department had the privilege of receiving a training on Officer Wellness from our department psychologist, Dr. Lewis Schollosser. Known to us as “Dr. Lew,” he has been a trusted partner for many years and serves as Managing Partner at the Institute for Forensic Psychology. Dr. Lew is highly respected in the law enforcement community and works with agencies across multiple states. He emphasized the critical importance of Officer Wellness, and after consulting with him, we are now ready to begin implementing our department-wide officer wellness checks.

We also want to congratulate Officer Mariah Morales on becoming a newly certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). Over the past month, Mariah devoted countless hours to training and hands-on experience, culminating in a trip to Florida to complete the final phase of her certification. This training was made possible through a Maine Highway Safety grant. Mariah is one of nine newly certified DREs who will play a vital role in assisting officers with impaired driving investigations.

As drug use continues to rise, we are fortunate to have officers like Mariah stepping up to take on this specialized training. Since returning, she has already completed her first DRE evaluation, exemplifying her dedication, professionalism, and commitment to keeping our community safe. We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, which makes this training possible.



Additionally, I've been participating in a Maine Municipal Leadership course that meets every couple of weeks over a five-week period. We have completed two sessions so far, and the course has already been extremely valuable in strengthening my leadership skills. It provides practical strategies for handling a wide range of real-world situations and challenges.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the class has been learning alongside other municipal professionals. The shared experiences, perspectives, and discussions offer meaningful insight that I can apply directly to my role and the department. Overall,

Monthly Stats: Law Incidents: 307, Traffic Stops: 93, Total Criminal Violations: 8

Training Cont.

this course is proving to be an excellent resource for professional growth and continued leadership development.

Staffing

Officer N. Milner and Officer House continue progressing through the Field Training Officer (FTO) program. Officer N. Milner is currently in the shadow phase, the final stage of the program, and is expected to begin solo patrols by mid-April.

Officer Manna and Officer Denlinger are approximately halfway through the police academy, which is an exciting milestone in their training. April will bring range weeks, during which they will focus on pursuit driving, OUI enforcement, and firearms proficiency.

LD Bills, New Laws, and Case Law

The LD 1784 bill has passed. As I've discussed previously, this legislation requires police departments to maintain public-facing policies—meaning the public must have the opportunity to access them. Under the law, there are 17 specific policies that must be made publicly available. The deadline for compliance appears to be January 2027.

Our department is already ahead of the curve: these policies are posted on our website. I've included all policies that do not pertain to sensitive operational procedures—such as responses to active shooter situations—ensuring transparency while maintaining necessary security and safety protocols.

Month Vehicle Information

This information is up to date information, and the link is always public-facing, so you can access it anytime. This is the easiest way to keep everyone informed.



Scan the QR code or use the link below.

<https://public.powerdms.com/LincolnMEPD/documents/2698415>