



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

To: Wade Shaefer, Interim Town Manager
From: Lee Miller - Police Chief 
Date: July 1st, 2026
RE: Police Department Report for June 2026

Police Department Updates

Message from Chief Miller

Over the past 18 months, I have invited members of the Town Council on several occasions to visit the Lincoln Police Department, tour our facility, and learn more about what we do each day. I've had the opportunity to meet individually with many of you, and I truly appreciate those conversations. I'd like to extend that invitation again to every councilor. I believe the best way to understand the challenges and responsibilities of today's police department is to see our operations firsthand, ask questions, and have open, honest discussions.

I also think it's important that everyone has accurate information when discussing the department. Recently, I heard it stated that we have 12 police cruisers, which simply isn't the case. My goal isn't to criticize anyone, but rather to make sure decisions are based on accurate information and a clear understanding of our operations.

Policing has changed dramatically over the last decade. Today's police departments do far more than respond to calls for service. We are responsible for complying with numerous state mandates, including publishing policies, reporting on bias-based policing, extensive training requirements, accreditation standards, and an increasing amount of administrative reporting. These requirements are important and help ensure accountability and professionalism, but they also require significant time, staffing, and resources. One of my biggest concerns remains officer safety. Too often, calls that should have two officers respond are handled by a single officer due to staffing limitations. Going forward, we will begin documenting incidents where two officers should have been available. This isn't about inflating statistics; it's about accurately reflecting the operational realities our officers face every day.

I've said it before, and I continue to believe it: sending an officer alone to potentially dangerous situations increases the risk that someone will eventually get hurt. While every officer understands the risks that come with this profession, we have a responsibility to

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provide them with the safest working environment we reasonably can. Maintaining our current staffing levels is essential if we want to continue moving toward that goal. We've also discussed the ongoing drug issues affecting our community. Addressing those problems requires proactive police work—conducting investigations, developing intelligence, following up on information, and building relationships within the community. When a single officer is on the road by themselves there is very little time left for proactive enforcement. We end up reacting to crime rather than working to prevent it.

Despite these challenges, I remain incredibly proud of the men and women of the Lincoln Police Department. Every day they serve this community with professionalism, integrity, compassion, and dedication. They continue to provide outstanding service while adapting to increasing demands and expectations.

My responsibility as Chief is to be transparent about the operational challenges we face and explain why adequate staffing and resources matter—not only for the safety of our officers, but also for the level of service our community expects and deserves.

As always, my door remains open. I encourage any member of the Town Council to visit the department, tour the station, look at our equipment, ask questions, and learn more about our operations. I look forward to continuing those conversations and working together to provide the best public safety possible for the citizens of Lincoln.

Policies and Administrative

This month, we invited the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards (BLS), the state's equivalent of OSHA, to conduct a voluntary compliance visit at the Lincoln Police Department. We asked them to review our facility, records, and safety practices to ensure we are providing a safe workplace for our employees and complying with all applicable workplace safety standards.

The compliance officer was very impressed with our documentation and overall safety program. Only a few very

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minor issues were identified, all of which can be easily addressed. The purpose of this visit was to begin working toward participation in the SHAPE Program (Safety and Health Achievement Program), which is recognized as the gold standard for workplace safety among municipalities and other employers.

Achieving SHAPE recognition provides several benefits to the Town of Lincoln. It can help reduce workers' compensation and insurance costs, demonstrates our commitment to employee safety, and provides a two-year exemption from unannounced enforcement inspections by the Bureau of Labor Standards, provided we remain in compliance.

During my conversation with the compliance officer, I learned it has been quite some time since the Bureau has conducted a workplace inspection in Lincoln. Because of that, it is certainly possible that other departments could receive an unannounced inspection in the future. I would encourage the Town to consider scheduling voluntary compliance visits for all departments and begin working toward SHAPE recognition town-wide. Not only would this improve workplace safety for all employees, but it could also provide long-term financial benefits and demonstrate the Town's commitment to maintaining safe, healthy workplaces.

Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Update

The Lincoln Police Department is nearing the finish line in the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

We have successfully completed and passed the online assessment portion of the process, and on July 2nd we will welcome three assessors from police departments across Maine to conduct our on-site assessment. During their visit, they will review our policies, procedures, operations, and documentation to ensure we meet the 164 professional standards required for accreditation.

Following the on-site assessment, the assessors will submit their report to the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Committee for final review. Once approved, the Lincoln Police Department will become an accredited agency for the next three years and will be formally recognized with an accreditation plaque. Achieving accreditation is more than just earning a certificate. It demonstrates our commitment to professionalism, accountability, transparency, and nationally recognized best practices in law enforcement. It also provides tangible benefits to our

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community, including a \$2,500 grant from the **Maine** Municipal Association and savings on the department's liability insurance premiums.

This has been an incredible team effort. In just 18 months, our staff has worked diligently to build a police department that meets the highest professional standards. Accreditation helps ensure we are doing the right things, the right way, every day, while providing the best possible service to the citizens of Lincoln.

We look forward to welcoming the assessment team on July 2nd and taking this final step toward accreditation.

Staffing

I couldn't let this milestone pass without recognizing an incredible achievement—50 years since Detective Stu Jacobs began his law enforcement career, along with even more years of public service dating back to his time with the Old Town Fire Department.



Stu spent much of his distinguished career with the Fire Marshal's Office, earning a reputation as one of the finest investigators in the state. Long before I had the privilege of working with him, I knew of Stu through that reputation. People spoke of his ability to look beyond the obvious, think outside the box, and never stop searching for the truth.

Since joining the Lincoln Police Department, I've had the opportunity to see that reputation in action. The same passion and determination that made Stu such a respected investigator decades ago are still evident today. He approaches every case with relentless determination, digging deeper and pushing further when others might have stopped. Simply put, he's a bulldog when it comes to investigations.

What impresses me most is that after all these years, Stu still genuinely loves what he does. He isn't here because he has to be—he's here because he truly enjoys serving others, helping victims, and pursuing the truth. That kind of commitment is rare and something we should all appreciate.

Staff Cont.

I have truly enjoyed working alongside Stu and have learned a great deal from his knowledge, experience, and wisdom. Few people reach a milestone like this, and even fewer do so while maintaining the same enthusiasm, professionalism, and dedication they had on day one.

Congratulations, Stu, on 50 years in law enforcement and a lifetime of public service. Thank you for everything you've done for the communities you've served, for this department, and for the example you continue to set every single day. It is an honor to serve alongside you.

Officers Anthony Manna and Dylan Denlinger are currently completing the Field Training Program, the next critical phase of their development as Lincoln Police Officers. After successfully graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, they are now applying the knowledge and skills they learned in the classroom to real-world situations under the guidance of our experienced Field Training Officers.

Field training is where new officers learn the day-to-day responsibilities of policing in our community, including patrol operations, responding to calls for service, report writing, community engagement, and decision-making in dynamic situations. We are fortunate to have both officers back with the department, and they have already demonstrated a strong work ethic, professionalism, and eagerness to learn. We look forward to watching them continue to grow as they complete this important stage of their training and begin serving the citizens of Lincoln independently.

Staff Cont.

We are pleased to welcome Taylor Haines to the Lincoln Police Department as our newest part-time officer. Taylor will begin by completing our field training program before transitioning into patrol duties. Once his training is complete, he will be available to assist with details, fill staffing needs, and provide additional coverage during patrol shifts. Having another trained officer available will enhance our operational flexibility and help ensure we can better meet the needs of the community while supporting the safety of our officers.



Trainings

Congratulations to Officer Anthony Manna and Officer Dylan Denlinger on graduating from the 49th Basic Law Enforcement Training Program.



It marks a tremendous milestone in their law enforcement careers, and the Lincoln Police Department are proud of what they've accomplished.

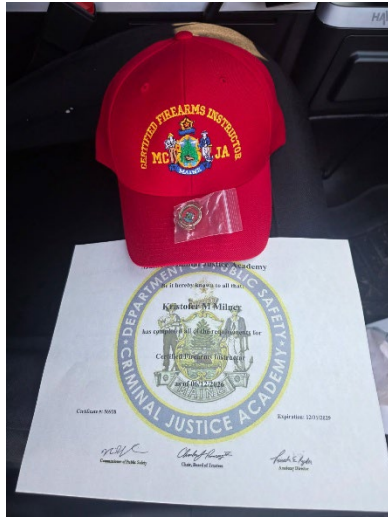
Over the past several months, Officers Manna and Denlinger have dedicated themselves to one of the most demanding training programs in the state.

Through hard work, perseverance, professionalism, and a commitment to serving others, they have earned the privilege of becoming Maine law enforcement officers.

We are excited to welcome them back to the Lincoln Police Department as they begin the next phase of their training with our Field Training Program. The academy may be complete, but their journey is just beginning.

The Lincoln Police Department is proud to congratulate Officer Kris Milner on successfully becoming a Certified Firearms Instructor.

This certification reflects Officer Milner's commitment to professional development and dedication to ensuring our officers receive the highest-quality firearms training. As an instructor, he will play an important role in maintaining proficiency, enhancing officer safety, and helping our department continue to meet the highest training standards. Please join us in congratulating Officer Milner on this outstanding accomplishment. Thank you for your continued dedication to the Lincoln Police Department and the community we proudly serve.



Congratulations, Officer Milner!

Officer Nic Milner attended and successfully completed the TASER Instructor Course in Bangor this month. This certification provides the Lincoln Police Department with an in-house TASER instructor, ensuring we can continue to meet the annual TASER training requirements for all sworn officers. Having a certified instructor on staff improves our ability to deliver consistent, high-quality training while reducing the need to rely on outside agencies. Officer Milner's instructor certification is valid for two years.

Patrol and Detective Highlights

We had a busy month, investigating more than 18 criminal offenses. These incidents included several domestic violence cases, charges of endangering the welfare of a child, multiple operating under the influence (OUI) arrests, several bail violations, and a number of theft investigations. While we remain committed to proactive policing and crime prevention, our officers continue to respond professionally and thoroughly to these incidents to ensure the safety of our community.

Monthly Stats: Law Incidents: 307 Traffic Stops: 66 Total Criminal Violations: 18

LD Laws and Case Law

Beginning July 29, 2026, Maine's new pay transparency law (L.D. 54) requires employers with 10 or more employees, including municipalities, to include the salary or hourly pay range in all job postings. The law is intended to promote transparency and consistency in the hiring process. Going forward, any employment opportunities posted by the Lincoln Police Department will include the required pay range to ensure compliance with state law. In addition, the Town should review its hiring practices to ensure all departments are aware of and prepared to meet these new requirements.

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>

Fleet Milage:

4594 – 145,091 5 gallons at 15 miles per gallon
 9287 – 55,936 28 gallons at 15 miles per gallon
 3640 – 15,000 1 68 gallons at 15 miles per gallon
 4299 – 15,909 118 gallons at 15 miles per gallon
 9571 – 11,321 46 at 15 miles per gallon
 9934 – 20,367 105 gallons 15 miles per gallon
 6300 – 10,660 86 gallons at 15 miles per gallon