

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mission Statement

To be the finest small police department in the State of Vermont. We are committed to working together within the department and in problem-solving partnerships with community stakeholders to improve the quality of life for the people served by the Bristol Police Department.

We continue to prioritize community policing in our approach to providing law enforcement service to our Bristol Community. We continually review our response to calls for service, to assure an empathetic and compassionate response. We appreciate the suggestions and support of our community stakeholders to assist us with our process.

We thank the Town of Bristol Selectboard for their approval to hire a Community Resource Specialist. This is a Town of Bristol civilian position housed within the Bristol Police Department. We are happy to announce the hiring of Amy Smith, a long-time local Bristol resident, to fill the position. We look forward to working with her. The position is part of our proactive community policing approach, assisting people in need within our Bristol Community.

Amy will be available to assist us with calls for service that are non-criminal in nature. She will also provide assistance in connecting people in need of services with appropriate agencies. We welcome input from community members as we develop this new position.

We also hired Armin Nukic to fill our COPS grant-funded position. He comes with prior law enforcement experience. With his hire, we now have four full time police officer positions.

Current full time staff include Chief of Police Bruce Nason, Sgt Andrew Graham, Officer Francis Smith & Officer Armin Nukic. Part time staff include Officer Matthew Collins, Officer Matthew Tatro, Officer Logan Young and Administrative assistant Elizabeth "Liz" Tracy. I appreciate their continued dedication and commitment to our Bristol Community.

We completed 3779 calls-for-service as of 12/30/2024. We have seen an increase of calls-for-service related to or involving people experiencing mental health and or substance use issues. These types of calls can take more time and follow up compared to other types of calls-for-service. The Community Resource Specialist position was created in large part to help meet these needs.

Another avenue we have been exploring for these types of calls is increased training with an emphasis on de-escalation. Sgt Andrew Graham recently completed training to be an instructor of de-escalation training. Not only is he able to train other law enforcement officers and first responders, to include Fire and Rescue responders, he is able to provide this important training to members of the public. We feel ongoing training is vital to our department, especially de-escalation and other mental health training that will assist us with our responses to calls-for-service that emphasize an empathetic and compassionate response.

We have replaced our 2018 Ford Explorer with a 2023 Dodge Durango. Due to a supply issue, we continue to wait for the arrival of necessary equipment before we can use it as an emergency response vehicle. Our other vehicles are a 2020 Ford F-150 and 2022 Dodge Charger.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

We are thankful to our community partners for their support and assistance. They include: our Bristol local faith organizations, Have a Heart Food Shelf, Five Town Partnership group, Bristol CORE, Atria, Counseling Service of Addison County, Addison County Community Action, John Graham Shelter, Charter House, HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty Effects), SaVida Health, Age Well, Tri-Valley Transit, The Women's Center, United Way of Addison County, Vermont Veterans Outreach, Vermont Prevention Lead Organization and Turning Point Center of Addison County. We can not forget our educational partners, Mount Abraham Unified School District schools.

Law enforcement agencies throughout Vermont continue to experience staffing issues. We appreciate the continued support received from our local law enforcement partners, Vermont State Police, Middlebury Police, Vergennes Police and Hinesburg Police, as well as the Vermont Homeland Security Investigation Unit, Drug Enforcement Administration and US Marshals.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with suggestions or questions. We value your cooperation in completing investigations and addressing issues and concerns in our community.

You can call 802-453-2533 or send an email to Bruce.Nason@vermont.gov.

We could not do this without the unconditional support from our families, we thank them for their support.

Respectfully,

Bruce Nason

