

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 are honored to have one of our officers, Francis Smith, receive the 2024 Team Two Frank Silfies Award. In recognition of his empathic and compassionate interactions with the public. This is a reflection of his commitment to law enforcement and the community he serves.

The Town of Bristol Community Resource Specialist Position has been a tremendous addition to the Bristol Police Department. Amy Smith, our Community Resource Specialist, who is a long-time resident of the Bristol area, has been instrumental in following up with community members in need of support and assistance. With her assistance, our calls for service for people in crisis have declined.

The Bristol Police Department continues to participate in the Middlebury Police Department's annual toy drive. With Amy's assistance, we were able to reach many more families this year. Amy completed over 420 incident responses that would have otherwise been completed by a police officer, as well as assisting officers with multiple other calls. She spends numerous hours following up to ensure our community members continue to receive resources and support. Some of our families have received over 100 hours of continued support from her. We appreciate her commitment and dedication to the Bristol Community and look forward to her continued efforts.

Our department consists of Sgt Andrew Graham, Francis Smith, and me, who are our current full-time officers. Matthew Collins, Matthew Tatro, and Logan Young are our per diem officers. As well as Elizabeth "Liz" Tracy, as our part-time administrative assistant. I appreciate the tremendous support and guidance they provide. We currently have a full-time police officer position if you are, or know someone, who is interested.

We completed approximately 3,987 calls for service in 2025. They include all incidents reported and or responded to. Currently, we have three Police vehicles: a 2020 Ford F-150, a 2022 Dodge Charger, and a 2023 Dodge Durango.

We utilize social media (Facebook) to notify the community of events, local advisories, lost animals, and property, just to name a few.

At the department, we complete fingerprint requests; no need for an appointment. The best time to stop is between 9 AM and 2 PM or after 3:30 PM. Bring a completed fingerprint authorization form along with two forms of identification. There is no charge for Bristol Police District residents; all others \$30 check or cash. VIN verifications, property checks, and security evaluations of your property are a few other services we provide. If there is something we can help with, please do not hesitate to call us.

We continue our focus on proactive community policing efforts. They include ensuring student safety while arriving and leaving school at Bristol Elementary and Mount Abraham Union

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Middle High School. It is a great opportunity for discussion with students, staff, and parents. We appreciate hearing from everyone and thank the students who have helped us decorate our department with drawings, artwork, and coloring pages of our patch.

We strive to be present at community events at the Town Park, Holley Hall, Bristol Recreation Club, Mount Abraham Unified School District Schools, Local Businesses, Organizational Groups, Clubs, and more. During these encounters, we learn from the community what we are doing well and how we can continue to make the community safe. Members of the Old Farts are a wealth of information and are eager to provide guidance and suggestions. We appreciate these collaborative discussions; working together, we can accomplish more. Please do not hesitate to contact us; we enjoy meeting with you for informative and meaningful discussions.

We are interested in scheduling events, such as “coffee with a cop” and “meet and greet” to provide you with time to discuss your concerns or stop to say Hi. If you have an idea of time of day or day of week that would work best, please let us know. If you would like us to meet you, your organization, or group, please contact us at 802-453-2533 or send an email to Bruce.Nason@vermont.gov.

We continue to build relationships with community partners to assist those in need. We work with Turning Point Center of Addison County, Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Hope, Age Well, Atria Collective, Department for Children and Family Services, Counseling Service of Addison County and United Way of Addison County to name a few.

We are thankful for the ongoing support from our Mount Abraham Unified School District partnership. Our commitment to the students and faculty continue to evolve and improve with the positive relationships developed through our interactions with the schools. Thank you, Principal Shannon Warden and all Mount Abraham Unified District administrators and staff for your support, guidance and assistance.

We appreciate and are grateful for the continued support from our law enforcement partners: Vergennes Police Department, Middlebury Police Department, Addison County Sheriff’s Department, and Vermont State Police. As well as our collaboration with event organizers and fellow first responders to provide a safe and joyful experience during the many events offered throughout the year in Bristol.

The members of the Bristol Police Department thank the great Bristol community, Bristol Town Departments, Town Administrator Gregory Faust, and the Bristol Selectboard for their continued support. With current staffing levels, the cooperation and support between the departments is invaluable to us. Thank you, Sharon Lucia, Eric Cota, Brett Larose, Will Elwell, Meredith McFarland, and Taylor Welch.

You can reach us at 453-2533; on Facebook, Bristol Police Department; by email, Bruce.Nason@vermont.gov, or by stopping by the station. Due to a shortage of dispatchers, your call may be answered by our auto attendant. Leave a message, and we will return your call as soon as we can. Please remember, if you have an emergency, dial 911.

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We can't do this without the support of our families. There are times we work extended hours. Thank you for your understanding and support.

A personal thank you to Patricia and Connor, I could not do this without your continued support.

Respectfully submitted

Bruce Nason,
Chief of Police

