

Lincoln Police Department Annual Report for 2004

The Lincoln Police Department had an extremely busy year. The 2004 statistics on calls for service, felonies and arrests were consistent with those of 2003 which was the busiest year the department has encountered.

The 911 system was finalized and is now a part of the town's emergency response system. I thank those that have put up new house numbers. It has made it easier to locate buildings in an emergency.

Your Police Department was the recipient of the 2004 Trojanowicz Award. This award is presented annually by the New England Community Partnership to the law enforcement agency in New England that shows the most concern for its community members and provides the best services. The Lincoln Police department won the category for best agency in a town with a population under 15,000.

Our department participated in the New Hampshire State Accreditation process, which involved a thorough examination of our agency's policies, procedures and regulations. As a result, for the second time in three years, the Lincoln Police Department achieved state accreditation during 2004. Our department is one of only a few in New Hampshire that has attained this distinction.

I am pleased to report that our department has also received national recognition through the

National Commission on Law Enforcement. Ours is only the second agency in New Hampshire to attain this level of recognition.

The process required to win both awards was difficult. It was only achieved through the hard work and professionalism of the men and women of the Lincoln Police Department.

In August the Police Department held a National Night Out to give our citizens a better awareness of safety issues and to help to promote support for local anti-crime programs. Lincoln was one of thousands of communities throughout the country that participated in this event.

The department handled a large number of major crimes in 2004, including a murder/suicide, burglaries, armed robbery, sexual assault, and the recovery of skeletal remains from a suicide over a decade ago. Fortunately we were able to close out a number of the burglaries and the sexual assault by arrests, and those suspects that have gone to trial have been convicted.

I am grateful for the support from Lincoln's residents and the business community. Your cooperative spirit has assisted us many times in our service to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore P. Smith, Chief of Police

POLICE ACTIVITY INFORMATION

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Calls for Service	15,106	12,278	20,138	17,589
Felonies	48	25	78	73

"Calls for service" are the driving force of any police department. They provide us with a way of determining the number of incidents that occur. They range from a traffic stop, business check, lost dog, or a citizen assist, to felonies and arrests.

While they tend to encompass a number of things, each call means that the Police Department had some contact with the public and provided assistance of some sort. While the time involved might be five minutes for a business check, it can also mean 407¼ hours during a 2003 search and rescue incident. There has been a dramatic increase in calls for service in recent years. In 1997, our department handled only 3,100 calls compared to more than 17,000 in 2004.

Our agency is one of the most active in the region as measured by calls for service. This could mean a delay in response if officers are tied up on other calls. Each call is taken based on its priority and potential for danger to the public. We are trying our best to handle each call and provide the best possible service with available resources.

	2001	2002	2003	2004
TOTAL OFFENSES COMMITTED	971	534	600	558
ARRESTS	358	170	202	232
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	35	27	38	34
JUVENILE CASES	23	8	21	31
RESTRAINING ORDERS	19	9	20	17
ACCIDENTS	135	116	128	133
TRAFFIC CITATIONS/WARNINGS	2,407	1,115	980	1,100
PARKING TICKETS	100	37	218	205