

Weathersfield Police Department



Honor · Integrity · Courage

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Chief William J. Daniels



The mission of the Weathersfield Police Department is to provide a safer community for the residents by reducing crime, creating safer roads and building trust with the community

The Weathersfield Police Department is proposing to offer the Town of Cavendish high visibility proactive community-based policing. Community policing is a law enforcement strategy that emphasizes the systematic use of community engagement, partnerships, and problem solving techniques to proactively address conditions that cultivate crime and social disorder. We have found that by building trust and cooperation throughout the Town of Weathersfield, we are able to provide a highly effective police force with the minimal resources available in a small Town. Community policing requires cooperation among police, citizens, and local decision-makers in order to forge effective partnerships that combat criminal activity. We propose conducting policing for the Town of Cavendish through:

Traffic Control

- Motor vehicle enforcement in targeted areas where speed and accidents occur.
- During specific times throughout the year, we will be conducting click it or ticket, DUI, seatbelt, and cell phone campaigns through the Governor Safety Highway Program.

Proactive patrols

- goal is to prevent criminal activity by being visible during routine patrols

Community policing

- through patrolling we encourage citizens to stop and talk with our officers about concerns they may have so we can better understand the needs of the community and provide services based on their feedback
- through social media we humanize the work of our officers, disseminate information, and directly engage with citizens
- Attend town wide functions where citizens will have an opportunity to communicate and socialize with our officers

Calls of Service

- Include criminal complaints, citizen assists, fire and medical calls, and motor vehicle concerns
- Calls for service will get response in timely manner with priority based on other calls of service and the matter of the call

Prioritization of Service

- Emergency responses would be calls for service that cannot hold until officer is on shift and will get an immediate officer's response. Examples: accidents, assaults, burglaries in progress etc.
- Non-emergency calls will be responded to when an officer is available. These calls may be responded to as soon as the call comes in, or if there is no officer available or on shift, the call will be placed on hold until the next available officer signs on.

Benefits to regionalizing of police services:

- Faster response times than are currently available due to staffing issues with other agencies
- No need for an upfront expense to purchase a vehicle and equip it with emergency lighting, emergency radios, etc to start up a new department (new cruiser with lights, 2-radios, equipment (radar, flares, PBT, traffic vests, tape measuring devices, fire ext etc. can cost upwards of \$60,000.00), plus insurance, fuel, maintenance etc.
- No need to hire and retain officers, you get the benefit of a highly motivated and skilled department who is looking to expand and provide more coverage time
- No need to worry about retirement, health care and other benefits, the town of Weathersfield will be in charge of those expenses as part of the agreed upon payment
- No need to send officers to training, we make sure all of our officers meet the state of Vermont minimum training requirements and constantly train with other agencies on new trends in policing
- Training: The town of Weathersfield officers exceed the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Councils yearly mandated requirements. We have officers trained in the use of Taser, tire deflation devices, Narcan, first responders and one trained as an Emergency Medical Technician
- The Town of Weathersfield will utilize grant money to provide extra patrol hours, with the addition of extra patrol areas we may receive extra grant funding adding extra patrols during specific times of the year
- Professional and established police department whose focus is on proactive and preventative patrols.
- Directed patrols visiting areas of the community that otherwise would only have response during an emergency situation
- No need for a police station, just need an office to be used as a sub-station.
- When available we will respond along with EMS and Fire to calls for service to assist with lifting, traffic control or other needs

Statistics:

Since January of 2016 Cavendish has had 1018 calls for service broken down as follows:

2016 – 399

2017 – 324

2018 – 295 (through September 25, 2018)

Average# of calls for 2016 & 2017 was $361.5 * 2 \text{ hours} = 723 \text{ hours}$ (13.9 average hours per week this number indicates time at scene, investigation, case follow up, case preparation)

177 of these calls for service were between the hours of 22:00 and 07:00 hours. (this would be considered a call out (requiring overtime pay) if deemed emergency response needed but would be covered under the contracted price).

2016 - 62

2017 - 63

2018 - 52 (through September 25, 2018)

Remaining calls for service came in during hours of normal coverage.

Town of Weathersfield Proposal

The Town of Weathersfield Police Department recommends coverage of twenty-five hours per week, based on the requested 10 hours of traffic/proactive coverage requested and the 15 hours needed to cover calls. These hours would include but not be limited to routine patrol, motor vehicle enforcement, community events, response to complaints, necessary paperwork and court hours associated with criminal, civil or motor vehicle activity.

$25 \text{ hours per week} * 52 \text{ weeks} = 1300 \text{ hours per year}$

$1300 \text{ hours} * \$65.00 \text{ per hour} = \$84,500.00 \text{ per year}$

We could also offer twenty hours per week and still provide good police coverage (calls for service = 15 hours, motor vehicle enforcement/proactive policing = 5 hours). One thing to remember is that as officers respond to and return from calls they will be patrolling and working traffic if the calls allow for this response. This will increase the amount of proactive traffic and police work conducted. This would also be an average worked which means traffic enforcement can be spread out or concentrated to focus on the needs of the community. There will also be grant funded traffic and specialty enforcement campaigns outside of this agreed contracted time.

$20 \text{ hours per week} * 52 \text{ weeks} = 1040 \text{ hours per year}$

$1040 \text{ hours} * \$65.00 \text{ per hour} = \$67,600.00$

We will also need office space to operate as a sub-station providing our officers have a place to set up a laptop and work on cases. This will also serve as a place where the community can stop by with any concerns they may have.