

Falmouth Police Department

In FY14 the department will be operating with a \$2,388,049 budget, which includes the divisions of administration, patrol, communications, investigations, school resource officer, harbor, animal control, street lights/traffic signals and building maintenance. Since my arrival in 1995 the department has consistently operated within the allocated budget each year.

Since 2010 the department has been providing dispatch services for the Yarmouth Police, Fire and EMS Departments, as well as the North Yarmouth Fire and EMS Departments. Both communities pay a fee to the Town for these services. This agreement allowed Falmouth to maintain its local dispatching services when so many communities were abandoning this service. Our communication center not only provides 24/7 service to the three communities, but it also provides 24/7 staffing to our building. This again is a benefit when other communities chose to close their police facility at the end of the work day and on weekends.

Another example of regional participation is the *Regional Crime Lab* based at Portland Police Department. Approximately 7 years ago the police chiefs of the Greater Portland region began planning for a regional crime lab that would serve the local departments with a state of the art facility. Currently the department participates in this lab with seven other agencies for a small annual fee.

The intent of this report is to provide a brief overview of the department. Goals and objectives of the department are provided separately on an annual basis.

Personnel & Staffing:

During recent years the department has enjoyed excellent support from the Town Council and the Town Manager which placed us in a position unlike many police Departments in the country to be able to meet the needs of the citizens with current staffing levels and equipment. However, with the increase in criminal activity in the greater Portland area we may be reaching a time where an additional officer is required to meet the demands of the investigative division of the department.

The officers and dispatchers are members of a union which is represented by the *Maine Association of Police*. The administration, supervisors, civilian personnel and reserve officers are non-union. Currently the Town and the union have a collective bargaining contract that is in effect until June 30, 2015.

The current staffing level of the department is:

- 17 sworn full-time officers (including the chief)
- 6 sworn reserve officers
- 7 full-time dispatchers
- 3 part-time dispatchers
- 1 administrative secretary
- 1 animal control officer

Within the 17 sworn, the department organizational chart (see attached) consists of a chief, 1 lieutenant who supervises the patrol division, 3 sergeants who supervise their individual patrol shift, 1 detective/court officer, 1 school resource officer, 10 patrol officers.

In 2012 the department changed the weekly patrol schedule to 4 ten hour shifts which provides overlapping coverage at the busier times and gives us the ability to exercise a level of control over the overtime.

The communications division consists of 6 dispatchers and 1 communications' supervisor working a flexible schedule of 8 hour shifts. The communications center also has 3 part-time dispatchers.

The reserve officers serve primarily as support for the full-time officers. Only on rare occasions does a reserve officer work a patrol shift. Their primary responsibility is to ride with full-time officers and to cover special details such as sporting events, parades, traffic details, etc.

Our administrative secretary is responsible for all clerical work within the department as well as serving as secretary to the Chief and Lieutenant.

The marine/ harbor division currently consists of 1 full-time sworn officer and 1 sworn reserve officer. Additionally, during the summer months we employ 2 park rangers who are typically college students.

Facility:

In 2008 the department moved into our current facility which has provided the needed space for the men and women to effectively perform their jobs. The main building is approximately 8,200 square feet with a separate storage building of 2,000 square feet. The building was built to meet the Silver level LEED construction standards. Heated and air conditioned with propane the building has been extremely energy efficient since it opened.

Equipment:

Overall the department is in excellent condition as far as equipment is concerned. Our major expense is vehicles, which as long as we maintain our replacement schedule, will remain in excellent condition.

Major patrol equipment:

- 6 marked patrol units
- 4 unmarked units
- 1 service/multi use truck
- 1 radar display trailer
- 1 harbor patrol boat and trailer
- 1 ATV for off road patrol/emergency response (purchased through a grant in 2009)

All additional smaller equipment is in excellent condition and is replaced through a replacement schedule within the annual budget.

Marine Unit:

The marine/harbor division is based at the Town Landing Pier facility with the aforementioned staffing. The staff at the marine unit oversees an anchorage with approximately 1,200 boats moored within its boundaries. The pier itself was replaced in 2000 and is projected to last for 25 to 40 years, unless of course a major storm damages it. The pier itself is insured as is all the equipment.

In 2008 the department signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the United States Coast Guard agreeing to assist them with emergency responses and special details. This was in response to the Coast Guard transferring ownership of a patrol boat to the department at no cost. The department had budgeted approximately \$125,000 to replace our aging boat. The boat is in excellent condition and continues to serve the department well.

Calls for Service/Criminal Activity:

I would refer you to the department's website for the statistical information related to calls for service, accidents and warnings/summonses which are clearly in direct proportion to the growth of the community. While residential growth directly impacts the schools with additional students it also affects the amount of traffic on the roads. However the growth of the business community has an even higher impact upon the police department with additional traffic traveling to the business areas and direct responses to the businesses for thefts, burglaries, bad checks, etc. and of course both residential and business traffic results in more accidents and more traffic stops for violations.

Please note the consistent numbers in the categories of calls for service and traffic summons/warnings. The dramatic change in the number of calls for service from 2008 to 2009 reflects a change in our software and reporting methods. However, it is important to note the high volume of calls for services that our officers respond to.

Living in a community adjacent to the largest city in the State we are often the target of property crimes which are being driven by the economic conditions and the influence of drug related crimes in our area. Maine is regarded as the number 1 state in the nation for prescription drug addiction. This classification is supported by the recent success of the DEA supported *Drug Take Back Initiative Program* in April of 2013 where 22,260 pounds of prescription drugs were collected statewide. Falmouth residents turned in 149 pounds at the police department this year. Maine has the distinction of having the highest per capita rate in this program nationwide.

Overall Status of the Department:

The department is in excellent condition as long as we are able to maintain our equipment replacement schedules and staffing levels to correspond to the growth of the community.

The department is often tasked with enforcement programs which were managed at the State level until recent economic times forced the State to task the local department with their enforcement. Additional demands from local government, increase in criminal activity and responsiveness to an unpredictable and unstable human element have impacted police services.

We are confident with the continued support that we have received over the years we will be able to maintain these services. Please see the department's organizational chart below.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Tolan
Chief of Police

Falmouth Police Department

Organizational Chart

