

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Stow Police Department continues to apply for grant funding to purchase equipment and cover costs associated with training of our Police Officers and Dispatchers. The Police Department's most significant goal for the year was to refurbish and upgrade the Dispatch Center with newer equipment, console, flooring and additional cabinets at an estimated cost of \$35,000.00. We accomplished this goal by applying for and receiving funding from the "E911 Support and Incentive Grant". We purchased the new equipment in June 2010 with the first grant approval of \$17,274.00 and received a second grant of \$17,275.00 in July 2010 to cover the installation of the new Dispatch Center equipment. The Dispatchers helped to set up an interim Dispatch Center in the Report Room, with technical support from Paul Yannoni and Detective Sallese. Moving all Police & Fire radios, E911 phones and other essential equipment to the interim Dispatch Center went smoothly. And as a result, the Police Department continued to operate smoothly while this important project was in progress. After this, the former Dispatch Center was then stripped to the floor and walls before the new console was constructed and all the dispatch equipment was re-installed in the new console. I wish to thank the dispatchers for their patience and support during this major project.

The Police Department applied for the State 911 Department Training Grant and received notification that we were eligible for \$6,000.00 to cover Dispatcher Training costs. The Police Department also applied for the Statewide Bicycle Helmet Grant Program and received 75 (seventy-five) bicycle helmets, which were distributed through a grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety, Highway Division to Stow residents during the year and at Springfest.

The Police Department was able to upgrade and repair the security system with the \$4,000 that was approved at Town Meeting. All cameras surrounding the building and interior are now being recorded including visual and audio in the booking and cell areas.

The Police Department continues to do its part in conserving energy in as reasonable a manner as possible. When older lighting fixtures wear out, they are replaced with modern, more energy-efficient units, as a part of the Department's ongoing normal facilities maintenance program. The Stow Energy Working Group installed recording meters to the Department's electrical panel recording in order to measure and monitor the Department's energy consumption; The Department has yet to receive the Group's report and recommendations at the writing of this Department's Annual Report.

This year we purchased our first hybrid vehicle, a 2011 Ford Fusion. The Police Chief and other members of the Police Department will use this vehicle in the performance of their duties. While the Police Department's new Ford Fusion Hybrid makes a nice addition to our police department, it is important to bear in mind that the Ford Fusion is neither designed nor built for police patrol duty. In contrast, the universal Ford Crown Victoria is one of the very few vehicles which are designed and purpose-built for the Police Service, equipped to meet the demands of

extended usage, higher road speeds, radio equipment, and other special requirements of high-usage and extended duty-cycle vehicles.

This year the Police, Fire and Board of Health acquired a “Sign Trailer” from a NERAC Equipment Distribution Project Grant. The Fire Chief received an allocation of \$12,094.61 and offered to share this funding to be used toward the purchase of the sign trailer. The Police Department and Board of Health each provided funds to help purchase the Sign Trailer, which may be programmed to advise Stow residents of an event or situation, as well as for other purposes. The Police Department recently used the Sign Trailer to advertise the Flu Clinic, new laws with regard to teenager cell phone usage, and was instrumental in warning the public of the road-paving project on Great Road in the fall. This important purchase was made possible by several departments cooperating toward a common goal.

The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program continues at Center School in the fifth grade with Officer Darren Thraen instructing the students. Don Taranto of D&D Farms of Stow graciously donated funds to purchase the D.A.R.E. graduation t-shirts for the students. At the beginning of the school year, the department had no funds to run the program. The Department applied for and received a grant of \$1,862.00 from the Alice Eaton Fund, to continue the D.A.R.E. Program in Stow. The Department is thankful for the Fund’s support by subsidizing the continuation of the D.A.R.E. Program for Stow’s students. This year the D.A.R.E. Program is no longer being taught at the Hale School, due to unforeseen time constraints at the school.

Police Officer Thomas Maskalenko submitted his notice that he will leave the Stow Police Department in order to return to Pepperell Police Department after serving with the Department for the last year and a half. He will return to his hometown and his family. Thomas Maskalenko is a great Officer and will be missed. The Department is actively working to fill Officer Maskalenko’s position.

We also hired Nancy Campbell as a part-time dispatcher. She currently is a full-time dispatcher for the Town of Concord and brings many years of dispatching experience with her.

Dispatcher Sherry Morton-Pelly resigned from the Police Department this year. Sherry was our dispatch supervisor and was instrumental in the Dispatch Center Refurbishment Project. Sherry left the Police Department in order to care for her children and to pursue a new career. The police department wishes Sherry all the best for her years of service to our Police Department.

This year we had a total of eleven house breaks. These crimes were committed during the day time. In most cases the stolen property is sold to support a drug habit. To help with the investigation of these crimes, the Detective Division has implemented new investigative techniques over the last few years. The adoption of the State Police Fusion Center, Coplink, NESPIN and the NorthEast information sharing network, coupled with monthly detective meetings and specialized training has increased the clearance rate of crime within the boundaries of Stow. In 2010, of those 11 house breaks that were investigated, four (4) resulted in arrests, four (4) a suspect was identified but we lacked enough evidence to prosecute and three (3) remain unsolved. The Police Department continues to urge residents to call and report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

This will be my last annual report for the Stow Police Department as I have decided to retire. I joined the department in 1976 and feel that the time has come for me to move on and spend time doing new things. Being the Police Chief in my hometown of Stow has been a great honor and privilege. I am happy to say during my six years as Chief we were able to make many significant changes in the Department including improvements and innovations in technology, facility renovations as well as other upgrades within the Police Department, and I especially want to thank all those who contributed time and effort in applying for the grants that made many of these projects possible. Most important to me was the hiring of excellent police officers and dispatchers. I don't have enough space to list everyone who helped me to achieve the various goals that I have had during the last six years.

I would like to extend a special heartfelt thank you to my administrative assistant Rachel Belanger. She has been employed with this department for 29 years. Thank you, Rachel, for all the assistance and information you have provided me during my tenure as Police Chief, and especially for helping the department apply for grants that allowed us to make all our goals a reality. Your loyalty and dedication to this department will not be forgotten.

In closing, I also wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, and all other departments. Most significantly, I wish to thank members of the Fire and Highway Departments for their continued support of the Police Department and to the residents of Stow.

And finally, but certainly not least, I am grateful for all our Police Officers and dispatchers who have faithfully served the department, and for their continued support throughout this last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Trefry, Chief of Police

Rachel R. Belanger, Administrative
Assistant

Full-Time Officers

William L. Bosworth, Sergeant
Ralph Marino, Sergeant
Timothy Lima, Sergeant
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Gary P. Murphy, Prosecutor
David J. Goguen, Patrolman
Darren J. Thraen, D.A.R.E. Officer
Sean M. Collins, Patrolman
Michael Sallese, Detective
Thomas Maskalenko, Patrolman (Resigned)

Special Police Officers

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley (Resigned)
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
James F. Finneran
Robert F. Blanton
Michael Smith
Lee Heron
John Connors
Enrico Maldari

Public Safety Dispatchers

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley (Resigned)
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
Darlene Trefry
Justine St. John – part-time
Nancy Campbell – part-time

Police Matrons

Deborah L. Richardson
Rachel R. Belanger
Darlene D. Trefry
Phyllis Tower
Richard Tower

Auxiliary Police Officer

Darlene Trefry

