



## Traffic Enforcement Recommendation

Town Services Committee  
Recommendation to the Selectboard for  
April 17, 2025

- Contract for up to 8 hours/week of Law Enforcement coverage, up to \$25,000
  - Consider appointing a certified constable to provide some of the coverage
  - The 2025 limit of \$25,000 includes the already-budgeted \$5,500
  - The expected recurring annual cost of 8 hours/week through the Caledonia County Sheriff Department, if available, would be about \$17,000 (at \$42/hour)
  - Other available agencies may include VSP (~\$90/hour), Lyndonville Police (~\$60/hour), Washington County Sheriff, and Essex County Sheriff
- There will be follow-on recommendations as the committee works through additional recommendations on pedestrian safety

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## Historical Sheriff Expenses and Fine Income

- In the early 2000s Danville had a reputation as a town where drivers should NOT speed
  - ~\$10,500\*/year in fines
  - ~\$15,000\*/year, ~8 hours/week coverage
- Through 2005, fines and a Law Enforcement fund paid for sheriff coverage (with occasional replenishment)
- In 2006 the town began regularly adding to the fund (\$4-8K / year)
- In 2011, the town closed the special fund and merged income and expenses into clear lines for 2012 and subsequent budgets
- From 2017-2019, a resident donated an extra \$2,000/year for coverage (in West Danville)
- For 2022-2023, coverage contract was only for June-October

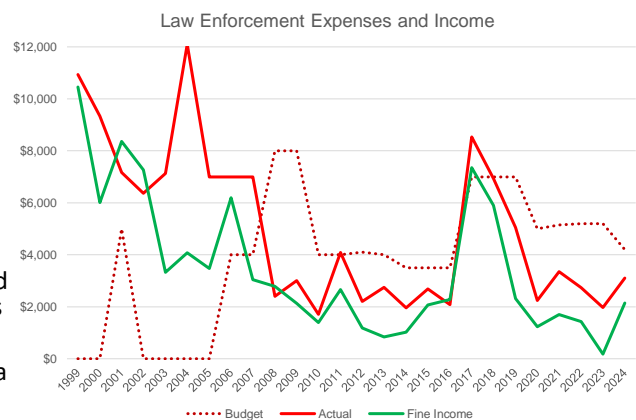


Chart dollar values are NOT inflation-adjusted

\*In terms of inflation adjusted 2025 dollars

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## Town Police Coverage

Constables can use personal vehicles - but people may (reasonably) not stop for them; it would be MUCH better for them to use a Town cruiser or another police vehicle.

- Constable(s)
  - Uncertified constables cannot enforce traffic laws
  - Certified constables may exercise law enforcement authority - unless prohibited by town meeting vote
  - No facility or dispatch required
- Police Department
  - [Chief](#) (level III) directs and controls the force (one or more level I-III officers)
  - [Facility](#) (office, interview space, holding cell, armory, evidence storage, parking)
  - [Dispatch](#) service - \$10K+ / year
- Equipment
  - Personal uniforms and gear: \$5K / officer
  - Cruiser: \$20-60K purchase (\$7-10K/year)
- Hiring-Training Timeline
  - Hiring process: 1-2 months
  - [Level I and II Training](#) - ~1 year
    - Phase 1: 10-day academy course (FEB, MAY, SEP; grants 12-month provisional certification)
    - Phase 2: 50 hours in core and elective courses (while provisionally certificated)
    - Phase 3: minimum 60 hours working under certified Field Training Officer
    - Successful completion allows part-time officer certification
  - [Level III Training](#) - 20 week academy course (two each year; results in full-time officer certification)

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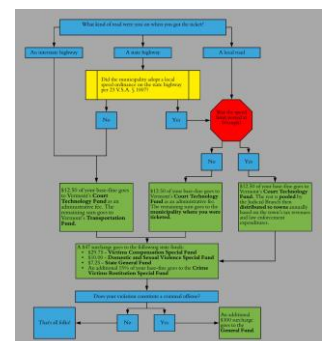
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## Legal Basis and Limits

- Constable:
  - As of 2020 Town Meeting, Selectboard may appoint (no longer elected); [24 V.S.A. § 1936a](#)
    - Duties: serve civil or criminal processes; destroy animals; kill injured deer; assist the health officer; serve as a district court officer; remove disorderly people from town meeting; collect taxes (if no elected tax collector)
    - May exercise law enforcement authority **as certified** - unless prohibited by town meeting vote
  - Not subject to conduct standards except as locally directed
- Police:
  - Selectboard may establish; [24 V.S.A. Chapter 55](#)
  - Have full police powers subject to training and certification level; [20 V.S.A. § 2358](#)
  - Subject to state conduct standards and proceedings; [24 V.S.A. § 1932](#)
- Contracted Law Enforcement:
  - Sheriffs: contract with Selectboard, with approved town meeting funding; [24 V.S.A. § 291a](#)
  - Special police: Selectboard may appoint temporary qualified additional police officers; [24 V.S.A. § 1931\(a\)](#)

Traffic Ticket Income



Credit Emily Corwin / Vermont Public Radio / Vermont Public Radio

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