



DOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dover, New Hampshire

Memorandum

TO: J. Michael Joyal, Jr.

FROM: Chief David A. Terlemezian

RE: Willand Warming Center stats and anticipated impact

DATE: October 21, 2025

I. Somersworth Police Department Statistics

On October 20, 2025, I contacted the Somersworth Police Department for statistics for their responses to the Willand Warming Center over the course of the winters starting in 2020-2021 and through last winter. These calls range from a death investigation, robbery and a sexual assault to self-initiated calls such as directed patrols (**303 of them**). Here is the total breakdown by year:

2020: 20 Calls for Service
2021: 259 Calls for Service
2022: 251 Calls for Service
2023: 96 Calls for Service
2024: 181 Calls for Service
2025: 162 Calls for Service
Total: 969 Calls For Service

It is also important to note that some of the calls documented below are listed as "Ambulance Calls". There were a total of 161 of them according to the Somersworth Police Department data. Chief Plummer was tasked with getting medical aid call related data, so there will be some duplication.

Attached is an excel spreadsheet documenting all calls for service to the Willand Warming Center

II. Current State of Homelessness Calls for Service in Dover

The social work program started in 2022. During that year, the department handled a total of 910 calls involving persons experience homelessness. At the time, that was 3.5%

of all calls for service. During that same year, the percentage of arrests involving someone that told us they were homeless was 19%.

In 2023, after the program was established and fully up and running, that number shrank to 552 calls for service or 1.8% of our total calls. Regarding arrests, the percentage was 17%.

In 2024, the percentage of calls involving those experiencing homelessness remained steady at 1.8% and the arrests were down to 14%.

So far in 2025, the percentage of total calls for service involving a person experiencing homelessness is even lower at 1.3% and the arrest data is down to 12%.

Over the years, a significant amount of money has been spent to clean up camp sites. Those figures are below:

2022: 21 cleanups for a total of \$16,827

2023: 26 cleanups for a total of \$28,936.5

2024: 10 cleanups for a total of \$9,636.97

2025: 3 cleanups for a total of \$2,555.73 (through October 1)

There will likely be encampments in the area of the warming center. If so, these costs will begin to rise.

The current, unofficial, census for people in Dover experiencing homelessness is approximately 40. This is based on unique individuals that have had contact with the police department and entered some level of case management or have been offered services by the department's social work unit.

III. Impacts of Hosting the Warming Center in Dover

Based on what Somersworth reported, it is safe to expect an increase in calls related to trespassing, welfare checks, narcotics, disturbances, thefts, disorderly conduct at the warming center, in the area of the county complex, and in Dover in general. Many of those staying at the warming center during activations will likely choose to remain in Dover after the center closes in the morning due to the many services.

Based on recent data, homeless-related calls currently make up 1.8–3.5% of total calls (300–900 per year). This is likely to rise if the warming center attracts more individuals to the area. Along with that, there is an anticipated increase in arrests related to bench warrants, trespass, thefts, and drug possession (currently 12–19% of total arrests).

Dover is likely to experience some increased call activity by residents in the area with concerns about persons walking along County Farm Road, County Farm Cross Road and Sixth Street. There may also be trespass reports, thefts and disturbances that occur in the area.

The county property is vast and partially wooded and the adjacent properties are heavily wooded. This means that persons choosing not to return to their home communities will likely attempt to camp in the woods in the area. This will require a cooperative effort between the Dover Police Department and the sheriff's office to frequently check the county property and those adjacent to it for evidence of camping. We will also need to communicate proactively with the property owners in the area in order to have properties posted and checked frequently by the owners.

Regarding the calls for service at the warming center itself, that will be a shared duty between the Dover Police Department and the Strafford County Sheriff's Office.

Currently, there is an agreement between the police department and the Strafford County Sheriff's Office for them to provide primary law enforcement services for facilities on Strafford County property. This currently includes the courthouse, the jail, the humane society, and the rest home. While there have been no formal discussions about adding the potential warming shelter, the Sheriff and I have been in touch and will work collaboratively. The agreement will be updated and will likely include the warming shelter.

However, the Strafford County Sheriff's Office closes at 4pm and provides on call response after that. This means that the Dover Police Department would be responding to priority and emergency calls at the shelter regardless of any agreements due to the fact that the majority of activations take place at night. The agreement allows for the sheriff's office to provide follow-up investigation for most call types.

IV. Conclusion

To conclude, the impacts on the Dover Police Department and the City of Dover in general are not fully known. There is no question that there will be an increase in demands on city services that will be only partially mitigated by the law enforcement services provided by the Sheriff based on the current schedule and only for incidents that occur on county property. The rest of the impacts in other parts of the City of Dover will be the responsibility of the Dover Police Department.