



**ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S
DEPT. STATE OF VERMONT
Trevor Colby**

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Sheriff

Essex County Sheriff's Department Report to Concord Select

Board for the period of January 01, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Our current contract in Concord is for an average of 14 hours per week. During 2023, we responded to 94 incidents in Concord. We wrote over 86 tickets and 116 warnings for motor vehicle violations in Concord. Throughout the county we responded to 648 incidents.

During 2023, the Sheriff's Department officers issued over 463 traffic citations and 691 warnings. Our Department continues to conduct Special Investigations Unit Services for the Essex county cases of sexual assault and child abuse. We are continuing another year of patrolling V.A.S.T. trails through a contract with V.A.S.T. This year we will be conducting Occupant Safety Checks, distracted driving patrols, and DUI patrols under grants from Vermont Highway Safety. These grant programs enhance the services delivered to your community. Our court security contract this year accounted for a quarter of all of our contract time. The courts are continuing to resolve cases in an effort to remove the backlog of cases. This impacts our small department by requiring testimony and service of subpoenas in addition to serving as court security. Many of our contracts this year were under-spent due to staffing levels and new increased contract levels.

We continue to be somewhat below an optimal staffing level. We had a part-time officer get done, one full-time officer retire, and our dedicated long time office manager pass away. The transition has been challenging. Our court officer stepped in to assist me in taking on the load and we have another person supporting the office three days a week. We hired 4 new officers one full-time and three part-time. We also retired some older cruisers and purchased some new-to-us retired cruisers. We also purchased in car cameras for several cruisers. In 2024 we will be returning to having officers carry body cameras. While I am leery of the statewide policy, I feel our department needs them for evidence purposes. I was able to obtain a \$20,000 grant to cover the cost for the cameras. This year we also added a website you can view at <http://www.ecsdvt.com/>.

Our year continued to be one of challenges trying to keep up with changing directives from legislature and needs of the communities. Our dedicated team put in over 10,000 hours of time serving on the department.

Thank you for your continued support,
Sheriff Trevor Colby