
CHAPTER 6

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Department of Emergency Medical Services is licensed by the Maine Department of Human Services to provide an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) level of service. The Department is funded by the Town and provides emergency services to Waldoboro residents without charge. Services to non-residents and transfer services are provided on a fee basis. (A transfer service is the non-emergency transfer of a patient, such as transportation from a hospital to a nursing home.)

Staffing. The Department of Emergency Medical Services is organized into five squads of volunteers. The Department is staffed by a paid paramedic five days a week, eight hours a day between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The paramedic also serves as the Town's transfer station manager. Service is provided at other times by volunteers on an on-call basis. There are a total of 23 volunteers who are paid based on the number of calls received. The annual average response time is 8 - 10 minutes.

Vehicles. The Department maintains a 1996 Ford Med/Tec ambulance (Type 1-Box/Conventional Cab) which is used as the primary response vehicle. A 1993 Ford Med/Tec ambulance (Type 1-Box/Conventional Cab) serves as a reserve. Distances to local hospitals, and current demands on emergency medical services have made reliance on two vehicles essential. Approximately 12% of the calls handled by the service are simultaneous.

Critical Care Equipment. The EMS Department maintains two heart monitors and defibrillator units. This equipment was purchased in 1990 and 1996, respectively, and is used for cardiac monitoring (E.K.G.) and defibrillating cardiac arrest patients. The Department also maintains various communications equipment including two mobile radio units with rear station for communications with hospitals, police, fire and other ambulance services as required by law. Other communications equipment includes one base radio located at the Town Office, eight hand-held radios, and 33 Motorola pagers used to alert attendants of an emergency call. In 1990, the Town installed a new emergency communication system linking the Town of Waldoboro with the Lincoln County Sheriffs Department in Wiscasset. The Sheriffs Office dispatches police, fire, and ambulance services 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Types of Calls. The chart below provides a summary of the total calls for service in 1996. During 1996, there were 669 calls which resulted in 379 emergency transports, 15 emergency transfers, and 112 transfers, for a total of 506 responses (these are summarized in the chart below).

The chart below shows that the overall volume of medical transports has been growing since 1987, and is significantly higher in both 1995 and 1996 because of the addition of transfer services (85 in 1995 and 127 in 1996).

Table 6-1 provides a summary of the types of emergency responses for 1996. The totals by types of call do not add up to the total number of responses because some patients with more than one problem may be counted more than once.

Medical	Cardiac	87
	Poisoning	10
	Respiratory	61
	Behavioral	9
	Diabetic	8
	Seizure	13
	OB/GYN	5
	Other	77
	CVA	26
Trauma	Multi System Trauma	6
	Head Trauma	19
	Spinal Trauma	17
	Burns	2
	STI	39
	Fractures	19
	Other	10
	Cardiac Arrests	4

Needs.

1. **Level of Service.** There is a need to determine the type of service that Waldoboro should be providing in the years ahead. The Town can stay at the EMT level, or provide round-the-clock paramedic coverage. There are currently four paramedics who provide service to the Department, including three who are volunteers and one who is both the manager of the transfer station and a paramedic.
2. **Staffing.** Based on the level of service which the Town desires, there is a need to determine the point at which Waldoboro will need to provide full-time staff. Future staff needs may also be affected by the extent to which Waldoboro provides services to surrounding communities (see discussion under the heading "Future Staff Needs").

3. **Mandates.** State mandates have made it difficult for small, voluntary EMS departments to operate within the letter of the law, and Waldoboro is no exception. No single mandate creates a significant problem, but the sum total of all mandates creates not only the need to respond to all mandates but to keep up with a great deal of paperwork.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Staffing. The Waldoboro Fire Department, which is headquartered in the municipal building, is an all-volunteer department that is currently served by 35 members. The Department is a member of the Knox County Mutual Aid Association and the Lincoln County Fire Chiefs Association. As such, the Town can provide assistance to a large number of communities in the two counties.

Types of Calls. Waldoboro's Fire Department responded to 113 calls during the period July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996. This is the highest number of calls since 1991, as shown in the chart below.

The types of Fire Department response for the 1995/96 period are summarized in Table 6-2, below:

Structural	7
Chimneys	10
Grass/Woods	12
Vehicles	5
Electrical	3
Out of Town	7
Smoke Scare	2
Auto Accident/Extrication	19
Miscellaneous	26
False	3
Fire Alarm/No Fire	12
Storm Calls, Wire Down, etc.	6
Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm	1
Total	113

Vehicles. The Fire Department is equipped with three primary pumpers, one reserve pumper, one aerial ladder truck, one rescue truck and one jeep, as shown in Table 6-2. The Department estimates that a total pump capacity of 3,500 GPM (gallons per minute) should adequately meet the needs of Waldoboro for the immediate future. The Department's current capacity is 3,750 GPM. The Department's goal is to be equipped with 1,250 GPM pumpers as older equipment is replaced. This will not only help maintain fire insurance ratings for the Town, but also provide the Department with increased pump capacity for fire fighting purposes.

Table 6-3

**WALDOBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT
SUMMARY OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT**

	Condition	Purchase Date	Replacement Schedule	Cost New	Estimated Replacement Cost
Primary Pumpers					
1996 Pierce Pumper - Engine #1	Excellent	9/96	FY 26	\$183,041	\$791,085
1990 Pierce Pumper - Engine #3	Excellent	4/90	FY 20	\$144,460	\$624,342
Aerial Ladder					
1949 American LaFrance - Ladder #1	Excellent	1/84	FY 09	\$9,559	NA
Reserve Pumpers					
1970 Chevrolet Howe Pumper - Engine #2	Fair	7/70	FY 05	\$20,385	\$214,238
Forestry Apparatus					
1977 Int/Howe Pumper - Engine #4	Good	1/78	FY 12	\$37,700	\$301,440
1955 Willey's Jeep - Engine #5	Fair	NA	NA	NA	NA
Rescue Apparatus					
1983 Chev/EV1 - Rescue #1	Fair	12/96	NA	\$27,000 (used)	NA

Needs.

1. **Rural Fire Protection.** Waldoboro maintains a tank capacity of 3,750 gallons. Due to the fact that the Town needs to improve its rural fire protection capabilities, there is a need for all future pumpers to be equipped with 1,250 gpm pumps and 1,000 gallon booster tanks.
2. **Dry Hydrant.** There is a need for the Fire Department to obtain cost estimates for installing dry hydrants in the Mill Street area.
3. **Mandates.** State mandates have made it increasingly difficult for small, voluntary fire departments to operate within the letter of the law, and Waldoboro is no exception. No single mandate creates a significant problem, but the sum total of all mandates not only creates the need to respond to all mandates but also to keep up with a great deal of paper work.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Staffing. The Waldoboro Police Department, headquartered in the municipal building, employs four full-time officers including a Chief, a Sergeant, and two patrolmen. The Department is also served by six reserve officers and a Public Safety Secretary.

Vehicles. The Police Department is equipped with two cruisers. One of the cruisers is used as the primary cruiser and is operated 24 hours per day, seven days a week. The Department is committed to continuous patrolling as a deterrent to crime. The second cruiser is used by the Police Chief for back-up on a complaint, or whenever an officer needs assistance from the Chief. This cruiser is also used for patrol whenever it becomes necessary to have two cruisers on patrol during special events during the busy time of the year.

Equipment. The Department's equipment includes two base stations, two mobile units, six portable radio units and a camera.

Types of Calls. Table 6-4 provides a summary of the types of crimes reported in Waldoboro for the period July 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995, and Table 6-5 includes a summary of police activities for the period from January, 1993 through July, 1995.

Table 6-4

CRIMES REPORTED - 1994-95

	1995	Cleare d	%	1994	Cleare d	%
Murder	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Rape	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Robbery	3	0	0%	1	1	100%
Aggravated Assault	7	7	100%	5	5	100%
Burglary	48	3	6.3%	21	3	14.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	3	50%	3	2	66.7%
Thefts	85	20	23.5%	47	10	21.3%
Arson	1	0	0%	0	0	0%
Total	150	33	22.0%	77	21	26%

Table 6-5
POLICE ACTIVITIES 1993-95

	Jun 94-July 95	Jan-Jun 1994	Jan-Dec 1993
Accidents	136	89	165
Defects	160	85	426
Warnings	485	169	431
Moving Violations	374	71	184
Criminal Arrests	144	90	142
Traffic Arrests OUI Only	15	16	23
Complaints Received	4,349	2,163	4,210
Investigations/Follow Ups	2,275	754	670
Asst. Other Departments	399	219	534
Asst. Public	1,657	761	2,018
Fire Calls	14	22	22
Ambulance Calls	52	35	41
Escorts	1	0	3
Patrol Miles	102,523	50,976	95,028

Future Staff Needs - Emergency Response

Over the next ten years, Waldoboro's population could increase to roughly 5,700 people. One way to gauge the need for full-time emergency response personnel is to review the staffing levels of communities that are larger than Waldoboro but within the range of growth that Waldoboro could experience over the next ten years.

Table 6-6 shows the full-time staff levels for police, fire and emergency response of eight communities that range in size from 5,171 to 6,441 people, based on 1992 population estimates. The table provides only a rough, general comparison because it does not take into consideration the range of duties and responsibilities of each department, and it does not account for the extent to which each community is providing services to neighboring communities. Moreover, the table does not take into account future staffing needs which may change dramatically over the next ten years, or the specific needs of individual communities which may vary greatly from Waldoboro's needs. However, it does provide some general insights which may be useful for Waldoboro as a rough guide to assist in future staffing decisions:

1. **Police Staffing**

- ▶ **High Ranking Officers.** All of the communities shown in the table have a full-time Police Chief and at least one high ranking police officer (police captain, lieutenant or sergeant). Cumberland (population 5,970) has two such officials.
- ▶ **Detectives.** Two of the communities with populations over 6,000 (Berwick and Buxton) have police detectives.
- ▶ **Police Officers.** Waldoboro has fewer full-time police officers (2) than any other community shown in the table. Buxton (6,441) and Lincoln (5,732) have three officers, South Berwick (6,201) has four, Jay (5,171) and Oakland (5,762) have five, Winthrop (6,095) has six and Berwick (6,186) and Cumberland (5,970) have seven.
- ▶ **Shellfish Warden.** Of the communities listed above, Waldoboro is the only one with a part-time shellfish warden.

2. **Fire Department Staffing.** All of the communities shown in the table except Lincoln have volunteer fire departments. Three of the communities have a full-time fire chief - Buxton (6,441), Lincoln (5,732), and Oakland (5,762). Three communities have half-time fire chiefs - Cumberland (5,970), South Berwick (6,201) and Winthrop (6,095). Lincoln (5,732) is the only community with full-time fire fighters (eight).

3. **Ambulance.** None of the communities shown in the table has a full-time EMT, and only one (Buxton, 6,441) has a full-time ambulance paramedic.

Table 6-6

**SUMMARY OF FULL-TIME STAFF
WALDOBORO AND LARGER COMPARISON COMMUNITIES**

Town	Waldoboro	Berwick	Buxton	Cumberland	Jay	Lincoln	Oakland	South Berwick	Winthrop
Population	4,749	6,186	6,441	5,970	5,171	5,732	5,762	6,201	6,095
Police Department									
Police Chief	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Police Captain	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Police Lieutenant	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police Sergeant	1	0	1	2	1	1		1	1
Police Detective	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police Officer	2	7	3	7	5	3	5	4	6
Total Officers	4	10	6	10	7	5	7	6	9
Police Dispatcher	0	1	4	4	4	0	0	4	4
Clam Warden	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Department									
Fire Chief	0	0	1	1/2	0	1	1	1/2	1/2
Fire Fighters	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Emergency Response									
Emergency Medical Technician	0	0	1	0	5 pt	0	0	0	1
Ambulance Paramedic	0.5	24hpd*	1.5	1	4	24hpd*	24hpd*	2.5	2ft/4pt

Source: "1996 MMA Salary Survey," Maine Municipal Association, 1996. * Contracted commercial services.

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Policies	Strategies	Responsibility/Date
<p>Public Safety. Ensure that Waldoboro maintains a high level of police, fire and rescue service.</p>	<p>Annual Review. Continue, on an annual basis, to review Waldoboro's fire, police and emergency medical service capabilities in light of changing population levels, changing emergency response needs, and financial constraints, and make budget adjustments as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – If the Town's population continues to grow, consider increasing the Police Department by one or two officers within the next five years. – If the Town's population continues to grow, consider establishing the position of part-time Fire Chief within the next five years. – If the Town's population continues to grow, consider, within the next five years, increasing the amount of paid emergency medical staff coverage and/or reducing services to surrounding towns and reducing transfer services. 	<p>Selectmen/Ongoing</p>
	<p>Fire Trucks. Ensure that all future pumpers procured by the Town are equipped with 1,250 gpm pumps and 1,000 gallon booster tanks.</p> <p>Dry Hydrants. Install a dry hydrant in the Mill Street area.</p>	<p>Fire Department/Ongoing Fire Department/2006</p>