



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**
Time: **3:00 pm**
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

	Pages
1. Call To Order	
1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement	
"I would like to acknowledge that our gathering today is taking place in Mi'kma'ki (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional, unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaw people. I would also like to acknowledge that Nova Scotia has another unique people, the people of African descent whose legacy and contributions date back over 400 years predating confederation of this land. We are all treaty people."	
1.2 Approval of Agenda	
1.3 Acceptance of Minutes - December 9, 2025	1 - 2
2. Strategic Plan Update	3 - 10
3. 2026/27 Capital Budget	11 - 12
4. Chief's Report	13 - 16
5. Next Meeting	
6. Closed Session	
7. Adjournment	

**Town of Amherst
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes**

Date: December 9, 2025
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Charlie Chambers
Commissioner Nic Furlong
Commissioner Angela Ryan Bourgeois
Commissioner Caprice Barbour
Commissioner George Baker
Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks

Staff Present Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Tim Hunter, Deputy Chief
Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Sean Payne, Marketing and Communications Officer
Lori O'Connell, Marketing and Communications Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk/Board Secretary

1. Call To Order

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Vice-Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Commissioner Barbour

Seconded By Commissioner Furlong

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

1.3 Acceptance of Minutes - October 21, 2025

The Vice-Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the October 21, 2025 meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners were accepted as included in the agenda package.

2. Oath - David (Sandy) Fairbanks

Chief Pike swore in new Commissioner David (Sandy) Fairbanks as the new provincial ministerial appointee.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Clerk called for nominations for the position of Chair. Commissioner Davidson nominated Commissioner Fairbanks. Commissioner Furlong seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Fairbanks was elected as Chair for the 2026 calendar year. The Clerk called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Commissioner Barbour nominated Commissioner Furlong. Commissioner Fairbanks seconded the nomination. Commissioner Chambers nominated Commissioner Davidson. Commissioner Furlong seconded the nomination. Commissioner Davidson respectfully declined the nomination;

Commissioner Furlong accepted the nomination and was elected as Vice-Chair for the 2026 calendar year.

4. Strategic Plan Update

4.1 Introduce Auxiliary Police Officers

Chief Pike introduced the new Auxiliary Police Officers, including Justin McKay, Karley Shultz, Prab Brar and Robert Anderson.

Commissioner Baker arrived at 3:14 p.m.

5. Nova Scotia Policing - Foundational Changes

Chief Pike reviewed the presentation, included as part of the agenda package. Information item only.

Commissioner Furlong left the meeting at 3:32 p.m. and returned at 3:40 p.m.

7. Chief's Report

Commissioner Chambers left the meeting at 3:41p.m.

Chief Pike reviewed his report, included in the agenda package. Information item only.

6. Hate Crime Training Verbal Update

A verbal update was provided to the Board, with the Chief advising Craig Upshaw will be providing training for all APD members, likely in March 2026. Information item only at this time.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

9. Closed Session

**Moved By Commissioner Furlong
Seconded By Commissioner Fairbanks
To go into closed session.**

Motion Carried

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk/Board Secretary

Commissioner Hal Davidson
Vice-Chair

MEMORANDUM

To: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Date: January 20th, 2026
Subject: APD Strategic Planning Update

As you are aware, the 5-year Amherst Police Department Strategic Plan runs from 2025 to 2030 and utilized community and partner input to design our approach to community safety. Our strategic goals were focused on four different areas: Recruitment and Retention, Training, Community Partnerships and Communication. We have continued to focus on these areas of growth and expansion utilizing social media and working with our partners in community safety.

Recruitment and Retention:

APA Sponsorships: We currently have one cadet who has just returned to APD for their Police On-The-Job training portion of their cadet training. Cadet Cameron MacLeod started his OJT on January 10th after successfully passing the PROS course. He will be working closely with Cst Greg Pavlovic who will be his field trainer. He is scheduled to graduate from the APA on April 2nd, 2026.

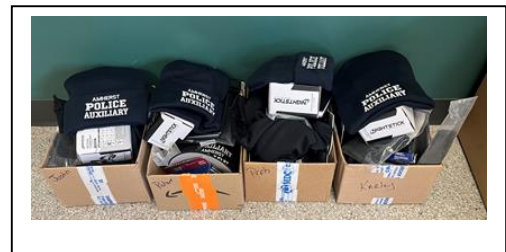


We also have 2 other candidates who are just starting their Cadet Training with the Atlantic Police Academy. Karley Shultz and Preston Vienneau were also selected from the applicants that applied through our department in 2025. They are both scheduled to start their OJT with APD in June 2026.

As we have one additional position from the APD for cadet sponsorship, we have been advertising via social media that we will be holding a competition/selection process on January 21st in the Francis Smith Room. Those wishing to attend must pre-register.

Cadets sponsored by APD are guaranteed part-time work with APD upon successful graduation and completion of their OJT.

Auxiliary Policing: We currently have 3 Auxiliary Police Officers with APD (as Karley Shultz is attending the APA). We anticipate that they will be completely outfitted and ready for full deployment in the coming weeks as we are awaiting the arrival of their ballistic vests and a few other clothing/equipment items.



Training:

Regional Tactical Support Team: We are continuing to work with our partner agencies to build a 'Regional Tactical Support Team' comprised of Amherst Police members and members of the Truro Police Service. We are in the process of scheduling a meeting with Truro to discuss and develop a plan on how this team will work, scope and structure. This will also result in some additional training and equipment costs which are being included in operational budget planning. APD has already purchased several items that would be part of this team's equipment inventory including such less-than lethal options as a 40mm launcher, less-than-lethal shotgun and a pepper-ball gun.

Major Crime MOU: Our original MOU between the 5 northern municipal agencies has expanded to include other agencies such as Bridgewater and Kentville. The latest table-top exercise was hosted by New Glasgow Police on December 1st 2025 and included 7 Municipal Departments coming together. We have scheduled a meeting in February in Kentville to discuss further how we can efficiently manage our resources, access training and increase our skills.



Combatting Hate for Safer Communities: Hate crime training is being scheduled for all members and staff in late March, early April. This training also includes community consultations so that the training can be designed specifically for our community and our needs which may be different from other communities. The training is provided and was designed by Craig Upshaw, who is a national leader in hate crime policing with over 25 years of experience working at the intersection of law enforcement and community. This is a new police training program, that provides Immersive Training for Police Services that focuses on building & strengthening hate crime knowledge, skills and investigations. The program includes direct assistance in engaging with local communities and is comprised of three (3) phases and can last up to seven (7) months.

Community Partnerships:

Homelessness and Related Issues: We continue to work closely with Ashley Legere and her team at the Shelter. December was a busy month as a result of the extreme cold and other weather events. I have been in touch with Ashley and at some point, in the near future we plan on visiting other municipal police departments to discuss how we approached homelessness and related issues in Amherst.

Restorative Justice: I was recently asked to join a provincial committee on Restorative Justice, which is focused on promoting the use of the program, including the use of pre-charge referrals such as formal and informal cautions. In Amherst, we are going to try to find a way to properly track informal cautions.

I also reached out to Jennifer Furlong and indicated that we were interested in sharing social media posts that promote Restorative Justice and perhaps even developing social media posts highlighting the advantages of Restorative Justice and its principals. This includes providing additional training, direction and education to our members and staff.

Citizens on Patrol: We have a meeting set for the 15th of January with Loring Day of the COPs program. Citizens on Patrol utilizes members of the public to strengthen our response and awareness of public safety issues. This organization is working with municipal agencies such as Cape Breton to assist with neighbourhood watch type groups. Other municipal agencies are also be in discussions on this program. APD's role is to recruit members of the public who may be interested, conduct the back ground checks on those deemed appropriate then form a group that is basically self-sufficient. They provide citizen patrols in pairs, log into an app and anything deemed suspicious can be sent directly to our dispatchers via said app. There is no cost to us aside from providing the Criminal Record Checks. Their website can be found at <https://www.nscopa.ca/>

Communications:

As noted above, we are actively involved in keeping our community informed, especially on Social Media Platforms. This includes postings regarding the “#KnowOurNumber” Campaign, Restorative Justice, several Christmas posts and also some ‘APD wins’ regarding promotions, milestones, etc. Some examples are attached.



Amherst Police Department - Amherst NS

Published by Dwayne Pike · December 19, 2025 at 3:15 PM · 🌐



The Amherst Police Department would like to remind the public that while jewelry is always a hit at Christmas, this isn't the kind you want to be wearing.

Make smart choices and get home safely.





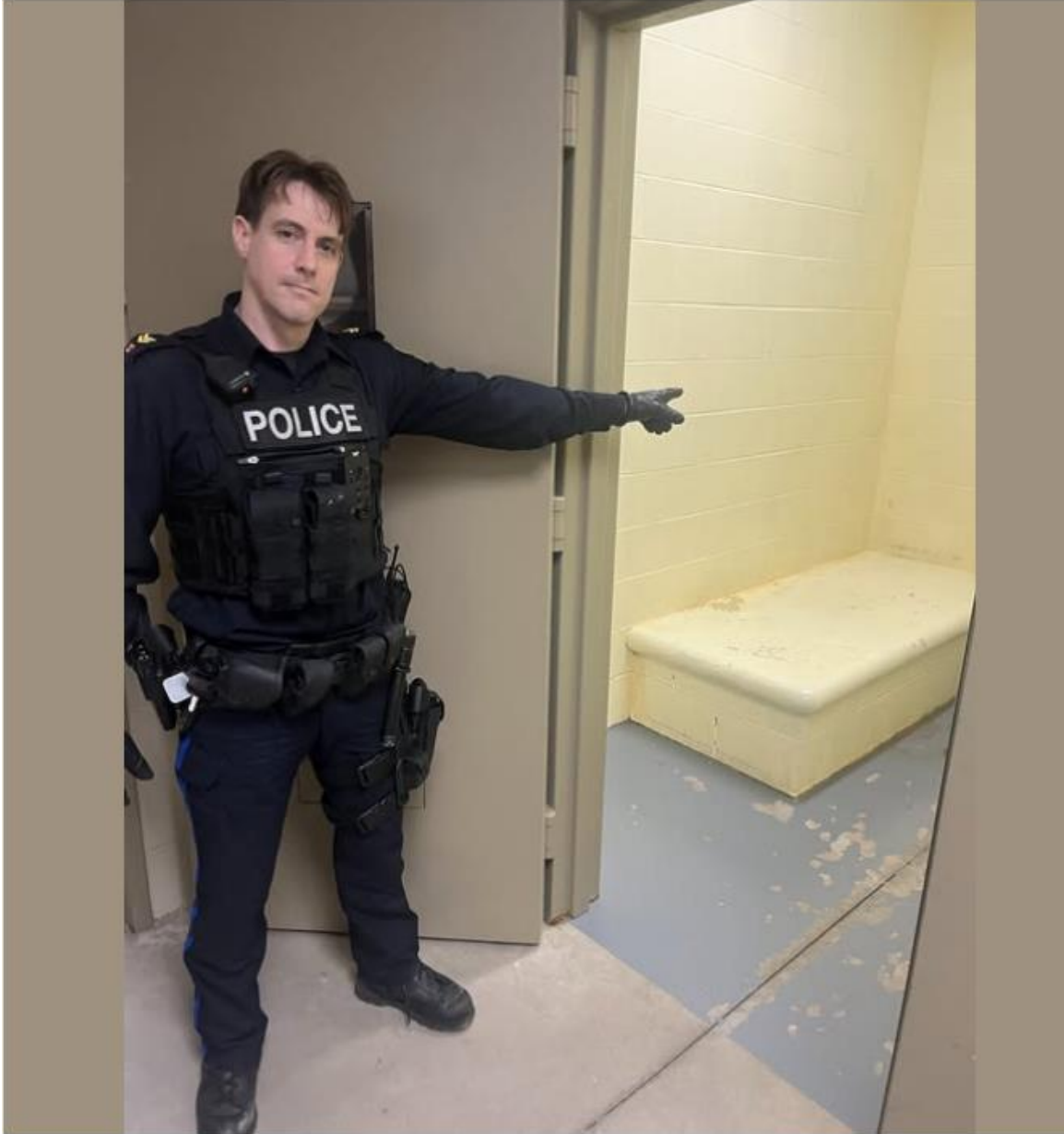
Amherst Police Department - Amherst NS

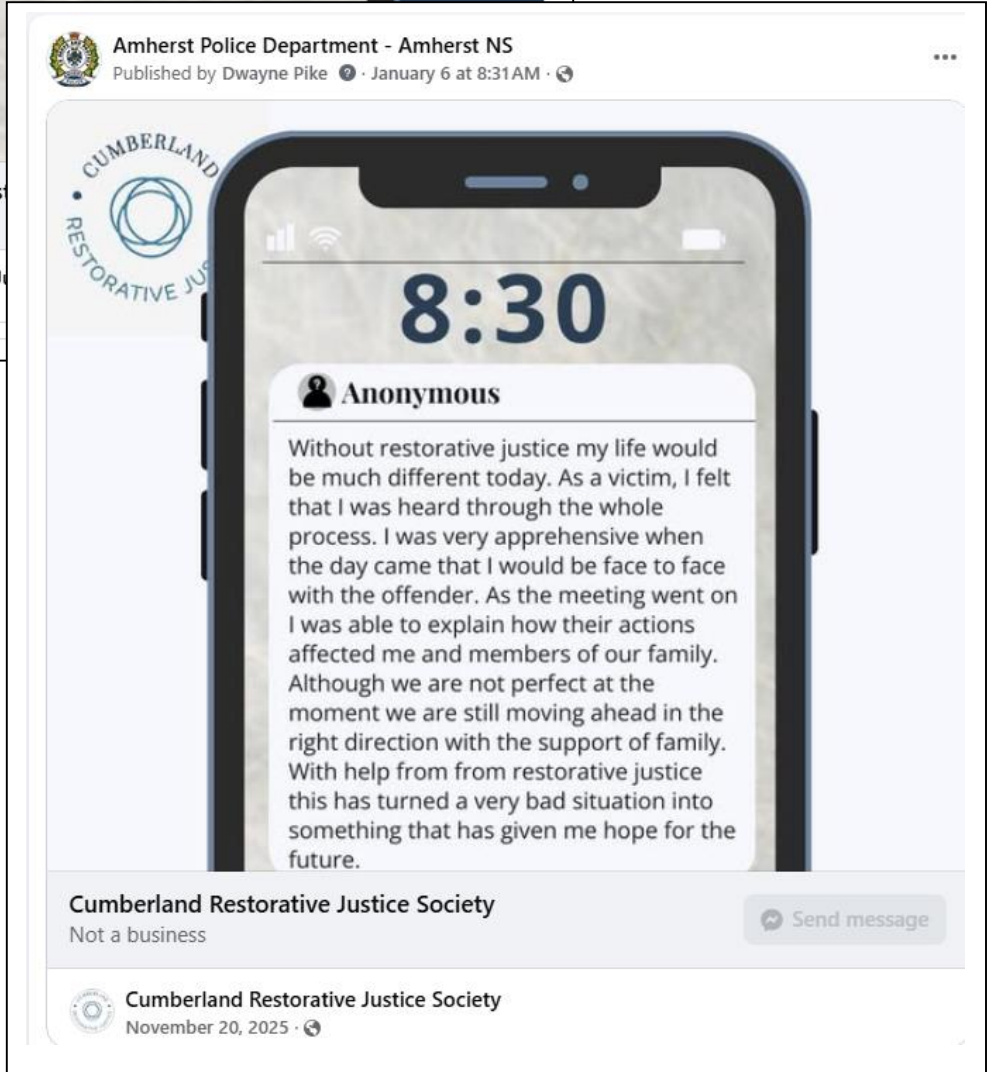
Published by Dwayne Pike · December 19, 2025 at 12:45 PM ·



Cpl. Haggerty would like to remind everyone: if you're looking for a festive getaway, this isn't it. Our accommodations are rustic at best.

As with every other time of the year - Plan accordingly. Drive sober. Get home safe.







Amherst Police Department - Amherst NS

Published by Dwayne Pike · December 18, 2025 at 1:15 PM · 🌐

Interested in a career in law enforcement? The Amherst Police Department is hosting an information session for individuals interested in applying to attend the Atlantic Police Academy.

Date: January 21, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Francis Smith Community Room

Amherst Police Department

21 Havelock Street, Amherst

Registration is required to attend this session. Individuals who do not register will not be eligible to apply.

All attendees must meet the Atlantic Police Academy admission requirements prior to attending. Please review the requirements here:

<https://www.hollandcollege.com/.../police-science-cadet...>

To register for the session, please email thunter@amherst.ca.



Amherst Police Department - Amherst NS

Published by Dwayne Pike · December 10, 2025 ·



Town of Amherst, NS

December 10, 2025 ·

There were several moments to celebrate at this week's meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners.

According to the By-law, the Board appoints a Chair and a Vice Chair each calendar year. David (Sandy) Fairbanks was recently appointed to the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners as the Ministerial appointee for a term ending December 1, 2028. On Tuesday night, Sandy was sworn in by Chief Pike, and elected as Board Chair. Commissioner Nic Furlong was then elected as Vice Chair.

Next, four special guests were welcomed as the first-ever group of [Amherst Police Department - Amherst NS](#) Auxiliary Police Officers.

The Auxiliary Program has been in development for several years, designed to train civilian members of our community, getting them involved in the department and potentially interested in applying to the police academy.

After officially announcing each member, Deputy Chief Hunter and Chief Pike gathered with Auxiliary Officers Prabhjot Brar, Justin McKay, Karley Schultz, and Robert Anderson, to mark the occasion.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Date: January 20th, 2026
Subject: 2026/27 Capital Budget Approval

Prior to the Capital Budget being approved by Council, the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners are required to review and approve the items that have been identified as Capital needs for the Amherst Police Department. Capital expenditures refer to the use of funds to purchase or pay for an asset that is expected to be used for longer than a single reporting period or fiscal year and usually exceed \$5,000. Capital purchases usually include vehicles, equipment or projects that can depreciate over time. Operational budgets on the other hand, are expenditures or costs that occur within the specified time frame of a fiscal year.

There are four Capital Budget items slated for the 2026/2027 fiscal year:

Hard Body Armour - \$35,000: At the current time, all APD members are trained as Carbine Operators. Additionally, we have 12+ members who have been identified and selected to be part of a containment team, and are often involved in more extensive training with such tools and qualify to the Ontario Provincial Police Carbine standards on both iron-sights and red-dot optics. This team has been utilized several times to respond to developing incidents and to assist other agencies. With the plan to build a *Regional Tactical Response Team* with the Truro Police Service, we require a sufficient inventory of high-risk response tools which include hard body armour.

At the beginning of each shift, Carbine Rifles are taken and kept in the cars when members go on patrol. This is a response to recent events in Nova Scotia and nationally to address an identified deficiency in the capability of the weaponry issued to Police Officers to enhance their ability and readiness when responding to high-risk incidents. The Carbine enhances the ability to respond to incidents involving rifles, barricaded persons, hostage taking and active shooters. The increased ballistic capacity, in comparison to 9 mm pistol issued to APD officers, is capable of stopping a more heavily armed or armoured offender and can be deployed at a greater distance. With the increased risk to our members, additional protective equipment is required. During the fiscal year of 2021/2022 we purchased 15 sets of hard body armour. In the 2026/27 Capital Budget our plan is to replace the 15 sets that are due to expire next year as well as purchase 3 more vests. This will ensure that our members have sufficient inventory in case of a major incident and to allow our Street Crime members to take 2 sets of body armour with them to the Cumberland Detachment instead of having to return to APD each time they require hard-body armour or have concerns of not having enough for in-coming/responding members.

Anyone deployed at a high-risk scene should be protected by hard body armour, including those that are assigned to containment, rescue or other active roles. Multiple sets of ballistic armour need to be purchased to ensure that our members can respond in appropriate numbers and remain engaged during multiple operational periods when dealing with high-risk incidents. This is in line with current Nova Scotia Policing Standards (Critical Incident Response) and expectations placed on police agency capabilities.

We are hoping that we can purchase 15 sets of ballistic plates and re-use the current ballistic carriers, which should result in *significant* savings and a cost well below the budget estimates. Many agencies are now issuing hard body armour to all front-line members because of recent events.

Patrol Vehicle #2 - \$93,000: Patrol vehicle #2 is a 2021 Dodge Durango that was purchased in the winter of 2022 in the fiscal year of 2021/2022. It has been in operation for four years and currently has 180,000km on it and is expected to exceed 220,000km by the time it is replaced. As you are aware, vehicle costs have increased significantly over the past few years and we have experienced significant issues with vehicle repairs. The amount requested includes the cost of the new vehicle, removal of equipment from the current vehicle and installation of equipment in the new vehicle. As there will likely be a different make and model purchased, some of the used equipment will not be able to be utilized again.

Patrol Vehicle #3 - \$93,000: Patrol vehicle #3 is a 2021 Dodge Durango that was purchased in the Spring of 2022, but during the fiscal year of 2022/2023. It was ordered at the same time as Patrol Vehicle #2, but delivered after April 2022. It has been in operation for close to 4 years and currently has 188,000km on it and is expected to exceed 225,000km by the time it is replaced. As you are aware, vehicle costs have increased significantly over the past few years and we have experienced significant issues with vehicle repairs. The amount requested includes the cost of the new vehicle, removal of equipment from the current vehicle and installation of equipment in the new vehicle. As there will likely be a different make and model purchased, some of the used equipment will not be able to be utilized again.

SANS Storage Unit x 2 - \$28,000: The Synology SAN units were last replaced in 2020-21. They will be past their life span of 5 years in 2026/27. Hard drives typically have a 5-year warranty and can start to fail after this period. As a police department, we use an enormous amount of electronic storage space and it is not uncommon for issues to arise with storage space in relation to building videos, interview videos and general storage relating to police files and exhibits. Purchasing two new storage devices will allow for a reliable server storage, backup storage for APD servers and offsite storage for the Town Hall servers. There will be approximately 20 servers and appliances stored on these devices. If these are not replaced, we will have an increased risk of data loss or server and storage failure.

Chief's Report
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
January 20th, 2026
This report covers the month of December 2025



TRAINING:

CCIS Training: Constable Chapman, who will be starting a new assignment in the Street Crime Unit, attended training on December 1st at RCMP Headquarters on the new CCIS system which stores criminal intelligence for police agencies across the country. This system is replacing the ACIS system which is being discontinued. This system is a vital instrument in utilizing intelligence in criminal investigations in relation to organized crime groups.

PERSONNEL:

Promotion: With the recent promotion of Cpl Tom Wood to Inspector, a vacancy was created in the patrol ranks resulting in a competition for this role. The successful candidate was Cst John Haggerty who was promoted to Corporal effective December 8th, 2025. Corporal Haggerty has been with APD since March of 2007 and has the reputation of a solid investigator and has been at the helm of several major incidents over the course of his career. While much of Cpl Haggerty's career has been in uniform patrol, he was assigned to the Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit for three years.



Town of Amherst Long-Service Awards – 20 years: Sergeant Kevin Girouard and Cst Tasha Estabrooks recently received their 20-year long service awards for their years of employment with the Town of Amherst and the Amherst Police Department. Tasha came to APD in October of 2005 while Kevin first came to APD in December 2005. Both had completed their On-The-Job Training in Amherst Prior to gaining employment with the Town.



Provincial Long-Service Awards – 15 years: Corporal Derek Hebert and Cpl Jeff Walsh were both recognized by the Province of Nova Scotia for 15 years of exemplary police service in the Province of Nova Scotia. Corporal Hebert attended the Awards ceremony held in Halifax on December 2nd, 2025, while Cpl Walsh was presented with his certificate at APD on December 8th, 2025.



APA Sponsorship: The Amherst Police Department is once again advertising for applicants who may be interested in attending the Atlantic Police Academy and becoming a Police Officer. This selection process provides an opportunity for people to apply and be considered for limited seats at the Atlantic Police Academy. The process includes interviews, testing, polygraph and other admission and hiring requirements. Our next information session is set for January 21st, 2026 in the Francis Smith Community Room. Pre-registration is required to attend. APD currently has one cadet who is just starting their On-the-Job training with APD and scheduled to graduate from the APA in April. Two additional candidates selected by APD are just starting their Cadet training at the APA, one of whom had recently been appointed as one of our auxiliary members. This latest candidate will be for the June 2026 class.

OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS:

Traffic Collisions: On December 2nd and 3rd, as a result of very poor weather, APD members responded to multiple traffic collisions in town, including 2 fail to remain accidents. There were also numerous complaints of downed wires throughout town as a result of the weather.

Multiple Charges – A 58-year-old Amherst man was arrested and remanded on December 2nd, 2025, in regards to complaints received by the Amherst Police Department. The male is facing charges that include assault with a weapon, assault, assault causing bodily harm, aggravated assault and uttering threats. The male was later released on conditions. On December 24th, he was arrested and remanded again following a complaint concerning a breach of his release conditions.

Fleeing Police/Impaired Driving Charges: A 43-year-old Halifax woman is facing charges in relation to an incident on December 10th, 2025. Shortly after 7:00am, Amherst Police were provided with details concerning a driver suspected to be impaired that had fled from the RCMP. Shortly afterwards, APD units observed a vehicle matching the description coming into Amherst via Exit 4. The driver did not stop for Police but continued through town until a second police vehicle positioned itself in front of the suspect vehicle. Police were able to box the vehicle in safely. The driver exhibited signs of intoxication and was arrested. Charges include fleeing police, impaired driving, dangerous driving and refusal to comply with breath demand. She was brought to court and later released. She is also facing applicable charges from the RCMP.

Multiple MVA charges: On December 14th, 2025, APD stopped a vehicle that was displaying a plate that had been reported as 'lost'. The driver, a 38-year-old New Brunswick man is facing charges under the Motor Vehicle Act that includes displaying fictitious plates, driving without a valid drivers license and without proof of insurance. The vehicle in question was also towed.

Firearms Charges: On December 17th, 2025, shortly before 8:00am, APD members responded to a vehicle parked outside a business in a 'no parking area'. When Police arrived, they observed ammunition and a long-gun case in the back seat. The vehicle was towed to APD and a warrant was drafted and approved. Police located an unsecured 20-gauge shotgun and ammunition. As a result of this incident, a 42-year-old Amherst man is facing firearms charges that include unsafe storage of a firearm, unauthorized possession of a firearm and possession of a firearm in a vehicle.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

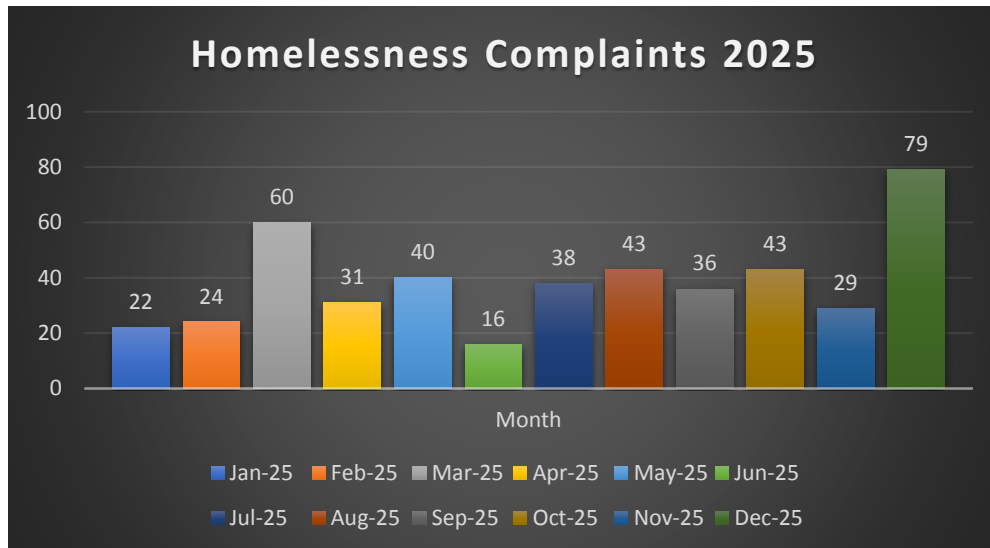
Police Pursuits/Failing to Stop: In December police recorded 2 incidents in which motorists failed to stop for Police. This compares to 2 incidents in November and 9 incidents in October. In total for 2025, police logged 47 incidents where vehicles fled from Police. This is an increase from 33 in 2024.

Off-Road Vehicle Complaints: In December 2025, police responded to 4 complaints of off-road vehicles. These included complaints of ATVs on the road as well as ATV noise. In 2025 Police logged 6 complaints where ATVs fled from police when Police attempted to stop them.

Shoplifting/Theft Complaints: December saw a sharp decline in shoplifting complaints with only one occurrence logged. This compares to 17 in November, 14 in October and 19 complaints in September. Overall, for the year, APD logged 145 complaints. This compares to 146 in 2024 and 199 in 2023.

Homelessness Files: There was a sharp increase in the number of files associated to homelessness in the month of December. Police logged 79 complaints for the month as compared to 29 in November and 43 in October. For the month of November APD responded to 29 complaints that were associated to homelessness. Of these, the majority are related to trespassing, suspicious persons and well-being checks. In October Police logged 43 complaints as compared to 36 in September, 43 in August and 38 complaints in July. As in previous homelessness stats, the vast majority of complaints are around 2-3 of the same people. As an example, one person was involved in 12 of these occurrences, another was involved in 9.

Our increased incidents in December are partially a result of trespassing complaints overnight in ATM banking areas and more complaints uptown – South Albion Street area. This is very likely related to the extreme cold in the last few weeks as people who are not able to attend the shelter are living rough at the other end of town and have been attending locations there to try and keep warm or rest. We also saw a return of 2-3 people to town that are not able to stay at the shelter for various reasons.



OPERATIONAL STATS – December 2025

Occurrences:	399	Criminal Code Charges:	52
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	1
Impaired by Drug:	2	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	14	Traffic Written Warnings:	3
Vehicle Checks:	37	LCA:	2
Foot Patrol Hours:	8 hrs, 50 min	PPA:	0
Parking Tickets(police):	15 (members)	Parking Tickets(bylaw):	0
Parking Warnings:	0		

OPERATIONAL STATS – 2025 YEAR END

Occurrences:	5583	Criminal Code Charges:	679
Impaired by Alcohol:	29	CDSA:	18
Impaired by Drug:	2	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	275	Traffic Written Warnings:	69
Vehicle Checks:	1247	LCA:	22
Foot Patrol Hours:	407hrs, 50 min	Parking Tickets(police):	48
Parking Warnings:	5		

