

	2025 Contract	2025 Actual
Barnet	\$7,500	\$5,261
Burke	\$18,500	\$10,787
Danville*	\$5,500	\$5,500
Groton	\$10,000	\$6,886
Kirby	\$4,032	\$1,890
Newark	\$4,500	\$4,295
Ryegate	\$8,000	\$5,408
Sheffield*	\$6,000	\$2,835
Sutton	\$4,500	\$2,804
Walden*	\$10,000	\$7,821
Waterford	\$5,000	\$4,358
Total	\$83,532	\$57,842
Newbury*	\$13,500	\$9,413

Notes:

Danville – 2025 contract I was given says \$4200, 2025 town report says \$5500 (page 19)

Sheffield – Expenditure determined via 2025 town report (page 16)

Newbury – Expenditure determined via 2025 town report (page 7 – budget reports)

Walden – Town runs on a July-June fiscal year, above actual is for July 2025 to present (June not billed yet)

Prioritizing Caledonia County

Hey Folks...

Why does the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department provide law enforcement patrol services for a town outside Caledonia County when historically they haven't been able to fulfill our county's own patrol contracts?

As you know, I've been attending selectboard meetings and talking to residents about their concerns. One thing that keeps coming up is Town Patrols. Voters want (and should expect) that they will be fulfilled and done so with skilled & trained staff. The Caledonia County Sheriff currently contracts with the majority of the towns in our county that lack their own police departments in order to provide a basic level of law enforcement. One concern I keep hearing was that the sheriff's department was not fully meeting the road patrols that the towns were contracting for. For example, in 2025 (the most recent year in which entire year long data is available) the town of Barnet requested \$7500 in patrol services and \$5260.50 was spent. Groton requested \$10,000 and spent \$6,885. In the general, that theme continued across most of the towns served by the Sheriff. In a June 4, 2026 article in the Caledonian Record, the appointed incumbent is quoted as saying in part "It was no secret that there was a lot of money budgeted for patrols we weren't fulfilling." An additional article from November 12, 2025 talks about the Town of Waterford level funding the Sheriff's patrol budget because of concerns of the departments ability to staff to meet demand. During all of this, the incumbent decided to raise the hourly rate for patrols billed to Caledonia County taxpayers from \$42 to \$60 – an approximately 43% increase.

However, the incumbent continued to provide contracted services to the Town of Newbury (Orange County). At a time in which many of the towns in Caledonia County could not get the sheriff's coverage they asked for, the incumbent continued to staff that town and signed another \$13,000 patrol contract with them in October of 2025, which was later increased to \$18,000 (after Newbury's town meeting day). Curiously, the town of Newbury's rates stayed at \$75/hr for both 2025 and 2026 contracts and did not appear to be increased in the same dramatic fashion as towns in Caledonia County. In August 2025, staffing levels were apparently dire enough that monthly patrol invoices included with the following note: "Patrols were down this month due to the loss of the recently hired patrol deputy to another county. We have hired another patrol deputy and patrols will resume to normal levels." However, a review of some of the invoices for the month of August 2025 shows that Newbury continued to apparently receive more patrol hours (8.75) than most other Caledonia County towns (Kirby 1, Newark 2.5, Burke 6.5, Danville 5, Ryegate 3, Walden 6, Sutton 2.5, Waterford 6, Groton 6, Sheffield 2 and Barnet 3).

Folks, in times of shortages and difficulty, it is important to know that you have a Sheriff willing to prioritize those who put him into office. I do not understand why if the needs of county residents for police protection were not being met why we sent (and continue to send) deputies out of the area to provide patrol services for other counties. Is it because they pay more? I'm glad to hear that staffing has increased but once it was clear that the needs of county law enforcement contracts could not be met, out of county patrols should have been suspended until the problem was fixed one way or another. What if this happens again? If you elect me, I will never forget who I work for. In the event of personnel or resource shortage, I would have no problem regrettably suspending, delaying or terminating coverage for out of the county law enforcement work to ensure that my constituents were prioritized. I began a career in law enforcement to make safer those I serve. I am offering you the same service as your next sheriff.

Thank you.

Robert Gerrish
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Note: The documents examined to generate this article were obtained through Public Record Requests or town reports. Access them via [this link](#).