

# SHERIFF COULD SAVE BOW \$400,000



Sheriff Scott Hilliard has presented Police Chief Erin Commerford with a proposal for using county dispatch for the Bow Police rather than the current situation where Bow spends \$497,000 doing its dispatch. Currently Bow employs a supervisor and four dispatchers handling 26,000 calls a year.

Bow previously built up its dispatch center when almost a dozen towns paid for the service. Over the years most of those towns have gone with the Merrimack County Dispatch Center.

In December the towns of Weare and Dunbarton also withdrew leaving us with only New Boston which pays Bow \$30,624 a year for police dispatching service. New Boston is likely to go with either Goffstown or Hillsborough County's service if Bow switches.

Selectman Ben Kiniry said the net cost savings could be significant because the County proposed performing dispatching for only \$56,340. The Fire Department dispatches through the Capital Area Mutual Aid network of about 20 towns and Concord. The bulk of the current Bow cost is salaries and benefits of \$468,000.

Paying \$56,340 and foregoing the \$30,624 income from New Boston will result in a reduction from the 2015-2016 budget for the Police Department of about \$400,000.

Merrimack County's Communications Supervisor, Cecily McNair, said the timing is excellent because the county "is planning a million dollar upgrade to our system to help insure that our coverage in the county is the best."