## Hampshire Sheriff's Office

## Regional Police Lock-Up

The Hampshire Sheriff's Office (HSO), since 2002, operates and maintains the first design-built Regional Police Lock-Up in the state, serving the Massachusetts State Police and the 20 local police departments in Hampshire County, as well as the campus police for the five colleges in our area.

The story of the Regional Police Lock-Up began in the early 1980's when then-Sheriff Robert Garvey and local police chiefs began looking for solutions to the lack of housing space that met the guidelines for holding pre-trial detainees. Over the next 12 years, local law enforcement officials and state legislators discussed various options until a study was completed in 1996 that confirmed the need for this type of facility. Finally, the Massachusetts Legislature, in Chapter 88 of the Acts of 1997, approved $2.6 million for the design and construction of the Regional Police Lock-Up.

The lock-up officially opened on November 26th, 2002. According to MGL Chpt. 40, Section 34, a community with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants is not required to a police lock-up. Therefore, the small police departments in Hampshire County depend on the HSO for those services.

In calendar year 2025 (April 29, 2025 – April 28, 2026), 829 individuals were booked through the HSO's Regional Lock-Up, where they were kept safe and had access to meals, medical care and transportation to court appearances. Without this regional facility, state and

local police would have to find a lock-up in the area with a free cell that met the appropriate housing guidelines, transport that detainee and keep an officer present until the detainee was transported to court.

Now, law enforcement officials may simply drop off a detainee at our Regional Lock-Up, saving our state and local police departments precious time and money.