



August 15, 2025

## Vass Police Department

### WHY WE CONDUCTED THIS REPORT

On May 11, 2025, the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) received an anonymous allegation to the State Auditor's Tipline that the Town of Vass's (the Town) Board of Commissioners does not discuss Vass Police Department's (the Police Department) spending during open sessions. The allegation further claimed that despite the Town's high taxes, it does not employ any police officers. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§ 147-64.6(c)(16) and 147-64.6B (b), OSA launched an investigation into this complaint.

### WHAT WE FOUND

OSA conducted a review of the Town's Board Minutes and Agendas from January 2025 through April 2025. During this period, each Agenda included "Section 6: Police Report," indicating a routine time allotted for police-related discussions during open session meetings.

Meeting minutes reflect that the Board of Commissioners did, in fact, discuss Police Department matters during public meetings, including:

- Consideration of a new police vehicle and quotes received.
- Capital lease payments for the Police Department.

Additionally, according to the Town's website, the Police Department currently has four sworn employees, including:

- 1 Police Chief,
- 1 Lieutenant, and
- 2 Police Officers.

According to the FBI's 2019 Police Employee Data, the national average is 2.4 sworn officers for every 1,000 residents. Applying this standard, a town the size of Vass, with a population of 720 citizens, would typically be staffed with about two sworn officers to align with the national average.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on OSA's limited review, this allegation is unsubstantiated, and no further action is currently recommended.

**NOTE:** OSA maintains strict confidentiality when handling personally identifiable and other sensitive information in accordance with State and federal law. OSA takes all necessary precautions to ensure that sensitive information is not compromised or improperly shared. This special report is based on the limited information available to OSA during our investigation and is not exhaustive. This report does not constitute an audit or attestation engagement conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.