
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting
MEETING DATE: January 3, 2022
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DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services
ITEM TITLE: RCMP Levels of Service Increase
DESCRIPTION: Information on increase to RCMP levels of service due to population over 15,000

QUESTION

For information only.

OPTIONS

For information only.

PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL

Policing is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial and municipal governments. The RCMP is established as the police service for Canada under the *RCMP Act*. Under the *Police Act*, the provincial government must provide policing to rural/unincorporated areas and municipalities under 5,000 population. Municipalities over 5,000 must provide law enforcement by: establishing their own municipal police force, entering into an agreement with the province for RCMP services or by contracting with an existing police department. The District of Lake Country has a Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) with the Province for RCMP services.

There are three RCMP policing agreements in BC:

1. Provincial Police Services Agreement (PPSA) between the Federal and Provincial governments;
2. Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA) a master agreement between the Federal and Provincial governments enabling the Province to sub-contract the RCMP to municipalities;
3. Municipal Police Unit Agreements (MPUA) which are individual agreements between the Province and municipalities.

The MPSA and MPUA require municipalities between 5,000 and 15,000 population to pay 70% of the RCMP cost-base and municipalities over 15,000 to pay 90% of the cost-base. The formulas used to calculate the 70% and 90% cost base are different. The costs for municipalities under 15,000 are calculated using an aggregate cost of all municipal police units of less than 15,000. Costs for municipalities over 15,000 are calculated based on actual costs of providing services. Municipalities over 90% are also responsible for 100% of costs of certain services including detachment buildings, cells and support staff. Some of the costs included in the 90% cost base include: members' pay and allowances, employer contributions to member pension and benefits, transportation, professional and special services, major crime investigations, equipment, recruit training costs and some administration costs. Forecasting a transition from 70% to 90% cannot be done by simply increasing the projected budget by an additional 20%.

Local governments are responsible for additional investigation fees where specialized policing services are needed, such as the Major Crime Unit. If a municipality is not able to provide the services required under the 90% cost base, they must be provided by other methods.

In addition to explicit costs identified within the MPUA there are also implied costs when a municipality transitions to 90%. For example, Lake Country is the only municipality over 15,000 municipality that does not provide 24/7

policing; frontline resources when policing is not available are provided through the Kelowna detachment; other implied costs include increasing police to population ratio and providing a detachment buildings and support staff.

The existing RCMP detachment is owned by the District and was converted to accommodate RCMP requirements from its original use as a bank. The existing structure does not provide adequate facilities for the current staffing or responsibilities of the RCMP, including a lack of space to secure exhibits and adequate records management storage. In order for the District to provide the additional services required for a 90% municipality, including increased records and exhibit storage, consideration of a new facility will be required in the near future. The design and construction of RCMP facilities is a complex process to ensure compliance with strict security, building structure and technology requirements for RCMP services.

Lake Country's current authorized strength is eighteen (18) full time police officers. Due to vacancies, Lake Country RCMP has been typically operating with the equivalent of 10-12 officers and has recently been seeing closer to 14 actual full-time equivalents. In accordance with the MPSA, each year, the RCMP provides a 5-year projection, the Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP) based on the detachment commander's analysis for community needs and the related resource requirements. The approved in principle budget for the 2023/2024 RCMP Fiscal Year (April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024) estimates 19 members increasing to 21 members the following year and progressing all the way to 24 members by 2027/2028. These are used for estimation purposes and ultimately any increases in authorized strength would require Council approval.

REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES

Local governments in this region have been operating as a regional model since a time when the City of Kelowna was the only municipal RCMP contract in the region and was surrounded by areas under provincial RCMP contract. The region has evolved significantly with three municipalities incorporating and growing to having their own policing agreements with the province. However, the regional policing model has not evolved at the same rate. Regional models allow for specialized and/or administrative police services to be delivered regionally but add another level of complexity in determining whose resources are being used and how the cost-share formula is allocated. This allocation is currently being reviewed by all the partners in the region.

The City of West Kelowna and Lake Country Detachments fall under the umbrella of the Kelowna Regional Detachment. The City of West Kelowna detachment is an integrated detachment including West Kelowna, the Province and Peachland who work together in an integrated deployment model. The City of Kelowna detachment houses all the City of Kelowna resources as well as the majority of the regional resources.

INDEPENDENT MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICE

There are eleven municipal police departments in BC, including: Abbotsford, Central Saanich, Delta, Nelson, New Westminster, Oak Bay, Port Moody, Saanich, Vancouver, Victoria/Esquimalt and West Vancouver. Surrey began transitioning to a municipal department in 2020 however, their new Mayor and Council are exploring reversing the transition. Each of these departments are governed by municipal police boards and each municipality is responsible for 100% of the costs. Municipal police boards are established by an Order in Council from the Lieutenant Governor of BC. Members of the police board are provincially appointed and one member is recommended by Council resolution. The Chief Constable reports to the board on a variety of topics including spending, complaints, data and other topics as required.

The oversight of transitioning is governed by a board made up of representatives from the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments in order to coordinate the orderly, effective and timely transfer of policing responsibilities. There are many complex policy, operational and legal issues required as part of a transition which would require an in-depth investigation to determine associated costs and timelines, including one time transition costs, staffing additions, collective agreement amendments and capital costs.

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

De-centralizing a regional model will require significant effort including provincial approval to change the regional model.

REQUISITES

In accordance with the MPSA and MPPA, municipalities over 15,000 to pay 90% of the RCMP cost-base.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES**IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE OR MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

The existing RCMP detachment does not provide adequate facilities for the current staffing or for the additional services required for a 90% municipality. A new facility will be required within the next 5 to 10 years which involves a complex process to ensure compliance with strict RCMP requirements.

IMPACT ON STAFF CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The impact of moving from a 70% to 90% cost-sharing ratio, including additional costs from no longer having certain costs pooled provincially and including increasing contracted strength of 18 to 19 is \$1.28 m (\$3.79 m in 2023 vs. \$2.52 m in 2022).

After assumptions on growth and cost escalations and assuming a plan of phasing in contracted strength to 24 by 2027, the total RCMP contract cost escalates to \$5.39 m in 2027. This represents over \$2.87 m in additional costs annually compared to 2022.

Funding options will be brought forward in the 2023-2027 Financial Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services

Report Approval Details

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Attachments:	
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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature found

Trevor James, CFO, Director of Finance & Administration - Dec 21, 2022 - 12:13 PM

Tanya Garost, Chief Administrative Officer - Dec 21, 2022 - 3:13 PM