



The Corporation of the City of Courtenay

# Staff Report

**To:** Council

**File No.:** 1660-20

**From:** Adam Langenmaier, Director of Financial Services

**Date:** June 25, 2025

**Subject:** 2026-2027 RCMP Municipal Policing Contract: Approval in Principle

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to consider and provide “approval in principle” of the RCMP’s Municipal Contract Policing Multi-Year Financial Plan for the 2026/2027 contract year.

## BACKGROUND:

The Comox Valley RCMP detachment is a combined Provincial/Municipal detachment which provides police protection services for the entire Comox valley. Of the 64 members currently staffed in the detachment, 21 are funded by the Province, 31.4 are funded by Courtenay, and 11.6 are funded by Comox. The RCMP’s fiscal year runs April 1, through March 31.

For the RCMP 2026/2027 Contract Year, Council has been requested to consider providing “approval in principle” of an RCMP Municipal Policing Expenditure in the amount of \$9,758,180 (\$9,060,749 – 2025/26) of which Courtenay is responsible for 90% for a complement strength of 31.4 members. Per member cost at 90% is \$278,415 (\$263,576-2025/26, \$237,146-2024/25).

During the upcoming 2026 budget deliberations, Council will have the opportunity to revisit this “approval in principle” and if no changes are made the final confirmation will be sent to the RCMP in April 2026 for the 2026/2027 policing contract year.

## DISCUSSION:

Under the terms of the Municipal Policing Agreement, the letter of “approval in principle” for the 2026/2027 Municipal Policing Expenditure Cap is due by June 15, 2025. Courtenay - Municipal MYFP 2026-27 to 2030-31 (attachment 1) was received by the City on May 29, 2025. In order to provide the City adequate time to review and report to Council an extension has been requested from June 15 to the end of June, 2025.

The City’s member strength remains at 31.4 FTE for the 2026/27 year. The City increased member strength in 2019 from 30.4 to the current 31.4, prior to this the last change occurred in 2012 from 28.4 to 30.4.

## POLICY ANALYSIS:

In April 2012, the City of Courtenay renewed its Provincial Municipal Police Unit Agreement for the employment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the provision of policing services within the City. This Agreement has a twenty-year term and will provide policing in the City until March 31, 2032. In order to secure the 10% Federal share of the Contract, Council’s “approval in principle” of the contract expenditure cap is required each year.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

In 2025 the City utilized the following funding sources to fund RCMP services:

- Gaming Fund revenues of \$516,000 in 2025 to fund 2 FTE
- Provincial Traffic Fine revenue of \$272,000
- General property tax dollars \$7.5M

To more accurately reflect anticipated actual costs, the City also budgets for a projected “position vacancy pattern” to avoid over taxation for this service. For 2025, the budgeted anticipated vacancy pattern of 2 as been maintained. Actual experienced vacancy pattern over the past few years has been 3 to 5 members, however it is expected to reduce in the future. Funding for 2026 will be similar however the property tax funded portion will likely see growth as traffic fine, and Police Contingency funds are set aside for extenuating circumstances.

These budgetary estimates are preliminary and necessary for the federal government’s annual budgeting processes. Council has the opportunity to make the final decision on the contract and the funded strength for policing during the 2026 budget deliberations set to occur in the latter part of 2025 and early 2026.

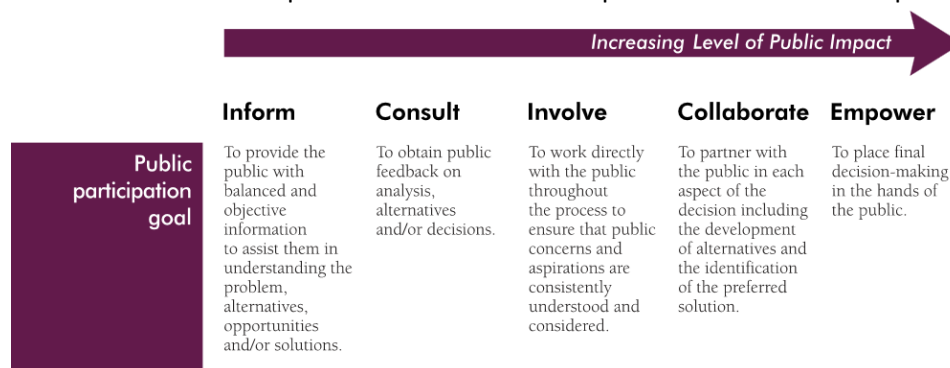
In the 2025-2029 Financial Plan the City has budgeted \$7.91M in 2026 for RCMP contract costs, the current estimated RCMP contract cost for 2026/27 is \$8.23M (29.4 FTE funded), this leaves the City in a budget shortfall of about \$320,000. This short fall should be funded through taxation as it represents a regular ongoing operating expense. Other options that could be explored to supplement this short fall include use of Police Contingency Reserve funds in excess of the target of the equivalent of 10 FTE at the prior years rate of \$263,000. The December 31, 2024 Police Contingency Reserve balance is \$2,487,174, any budget to actual savings from the RCMP contract are first transferred to the reserve to bring it up to the desired balance and the remainder (if any) flows to prior years surplus. Financial information for 2025 budget to actual will not be available until into 2026.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

RCMP Services align with Community Well-Being which is one of the four cardinal directions of the City.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Staff would inform the public based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation:



**OPTIONS:**

1. THAT Council provide approval in principle for an expenditure cap of \$9,758,180 for the 2026/2027 Municipal Policing Contract.
2. THAT Council provide alternative direction to staff.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Courtenay - Municipal MYFP 2026-27 to 2030-31

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Concurrence: Geoff Garbutt, M.Pl., MCIP, RPP, City Manager (CAO)