



The Corporation of the City of Courtenay

Staff Report

To: Council

File No.: 1660-20

From: Adam Langenmaier, Director of Financial Services

Date: June 26, 2024

Subject: 2025-2026 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 2025/2026 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 2025/2026 Contract Year, Council has been requested to consider providing “approval in principle” of an RCMP Municipal Policing Expenditure in the amount of \$9,015,110 (\$8,272,940-2024/25) of which Courtenay is responsible for 90% for a complement strength of 31.4 members. Per member cost at 90% is \$258,423 for 2025/2026 (\$247,498-2024/25).

During the upcoming 2025 budget deliberations, Council will have the opportunity to revisit this “approval in principle” and provide “final” by April 2025 for the 2025/2026 policing contract year.

DISCUSSION:

Under the terms of the Municipal Policing Agreement, the letter of “approval in principle” for the 2025/2026 Municipal Policing Expenditure Cap is due by June 15, 2024. Courtenay - Municipal MYFP 2025-26 to 2029-30 (attachment 1) was received by the City on May 31, 2024. In order to provide the City adequate time to review and report to Council an extension has been granted.

The following cost drivers impacting the 2025/26 RCMP contract are:

- Expected pay increases of 3.5% for RCMP members;
- Estimated pay increases for Public Service Employees (PSE) is set at 2.5%;
- Increased machinery and equipment costs;
- General Inflation Rate of 3% per BC Consumer Price index

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 2024 the City utilized the following funding sources to fund RCMP services:

- Gaming Fund revenues of \$475,000 in 2024 to fund 2 FTE,
- Provincial Traffic Fine revenue of \$272,000,
- Police Contingency Reserve funds of \$250,000
- General property tax dollars \$6.4M

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 2024, the budgeted anticipated vacancy pattern of 3 members which is an increase of the prior year’s assumption of 2 members. Actual experienced vacancy pattern over the past few years has been 4 to 5 members, however it is expected to reduce in the future. Funding for 2025 will be similar however the property tax funded portion will likely see growth as traffic fine, and Police Contingency funds are limited.

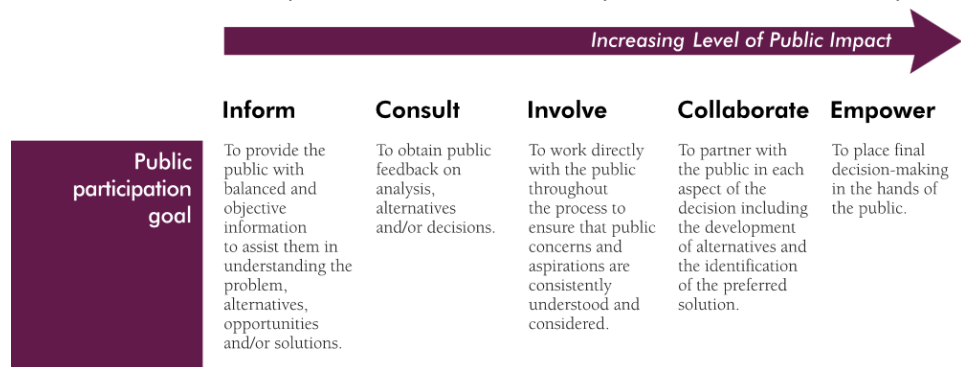
These budgetary estimates are preliminary and necessary for the federal government’s annual budgeting processes. Council has the opportunity to make the final decision on the contract and the funded strength for policing during the 2025 budget deliberations set to occur in the latter part of 2024 and early 2025.

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:



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OPTIONS:

1. THAT Council provide “approval in principle” for an expenditure cap of \$9,015,110 for the 2025/2026 Municipal Policing Contract.
2. THAT Council provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Courtenay - Municipal MYFP 2025-26 to 2029-30

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