



Date: September 25, 2023
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Ryan McLeod, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
RE: Policing Contract Renewal and Service Delivery Changes
Report No.: FS-2023-14

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That Administration be **DIRECTED** to notify the Ministry of the Solicitor General of its intention to remove the Municipal Liaison Officer enhancement position from its Police Services contract;
2. That an amending agreement for the provision of Police Services under Section 10 of the *Police Services Act* between His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario as represented by the Solicitor General (“Ontario”) and the Town of Kingsville **BE EXTENDED** for a period of two years ending December 31, 2025;
3. That Administration be **DIRECTED** to provide the landlord of 116 County Rd 34, Cottam, ON with written notice of its intention to terminate its lease agreement effective March 31, 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Town contracts the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) for the provision of police services.

In 2019, the Town entered a 3 year contract with OPP, which it has extended twice for additional one year terms. The current contract is set to expire on December 31, 2023.

For several years, the province has been in discussions with municipalities and police service boards about the amalgamation of police service boards. No final decision or timelines have been provided by the province. However, in the meantime, it has recommended that we pursue shorter term extensions with the OPP while we wait for a final decision from the province in regard to police boards and policing services.

During the 2023 extension deliberations, Council approved the following recommendation:

*That Administration be **DIRECTED** to prepare a report for Council, before the expiry of this one year period, to provide recommendations with respect to contract enhancements and police facilities.*

DISCUSSION

The Town's existing OPP contract includes an 'enhancement' position for a Municipal Liaison Officer. This enhancement provides for the full-time equivalent of an additional uniformed Constable over the base level of service as determined by the OPP for the policing needs of the Town of Kingsville.

The Municipal Liaison Officer duties include public education and other community outreach initiatives. In practice, these duties have been assigned to a variety of officers, based on availability. Each year, the Town receives a "credit" for any hours not provided.

Over the past year, the Police Service Board have discussed the merits of this position with the Detachment Commander and are recommending the elimination of this 'enhancement'. Based on the 2023 OPP Billing statement, eliminating this position will save the Town approximately \$153,000 per year.

The Police Service Board also recommends the termination of the lease of the OPP office space in Cottam. The lease agreement for this space allows the Town to terminate the lease at any time by providing 6 months written notice. Terminating this lease will save the Town approximately \$10,000 per year between rent, cleaning and internet services.

Based on the direction provided by the Committee of the Whole following of the Town's Facility Review, Administration intends to work with the OPP to explore potential options for the relocation of Kingsville OPP detachment in 2024.

As the Town has no immediate plans to contract police services to an alternative service provider, Administration recommends entering a 2-year extension with the OPP.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost of the OPP contract is calculated annually using the OPP Billing formula. This formula includes a fixed 'Base Service' cost per property, plus a variable 'Calls for Service' calculation. The later fluctuates with the level of police activity in the Town relative to the Province.

Each year, the OPP provides the Town with a 'Contract Estimate' which includes an adjustment for the prior year based on the OPP's budget variances and policing activities. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the OPP Contract over the previous 3 years.

Table 1 – Policing Contract Expense

	2023	2022	2021
Contract Estimate	\$ 3,293,125	\$ 3,354,761	\$ 3,354,648
+/- Prior Year Adjustment	13,891	(75,208)	26,892
OPP Contract Budget <i>01-122-072-60120</i>	\$ 3,307,016	\$ 3,279,553	\$ 3,381,540
Property Count	9,603	9,504	9,366
Cost per Property	\$344	\$ 345	\$ 361

Eliminating the contract enhancement position and the Cottam office lease is expected to save the Town approximately \$163,000 per year.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct environmental considerations associated with this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Town of Kingsville Police Services Board

PREPARED BY:



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REVIEWED BY:



John Norton
Chief Administrative Officer