



Date: November 17, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Natalie Sharp, Supervisor of Municipal Governance / Deputy Clerk
RE: Essex County OPP Detachment Board - South Update

RECOMMENDATION

That Council **direct** Administration to suspend any further expenditures related to the Essex County O.P.P. Detachment Board South until budget allocations are resolved.

BACKGROUND

On April 1, 2024, the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA) came into force, replacing the *Police Services Act, 1990*. Under Ontario Regulation 135/24, O.P.P. Detachment Boards were established as new governance bodies to provide local oversight of Ontario Provincial Police services in municipalities and First Nations communities that do not operate their own police force. These boards are intended to strengthen transparency, accountability, and community engagement in setting policing priorities and practices. As a result, the Essex County O.P.P. Detachment Board – South (the “Board”) was formed, comprising representatives from the Town of Kingsville, Municipality of Leamington, Township of Pelee, Caldwell First Nation, and provincial appointees.

DISCUSSION

The Board’s 2025 operating budget was approved at \$30,114, excluding board member remuneration, and was initially divided equally among the four participating communities, resulting in a share of \$7,529 per community. Recently, the Town was informed by an Advisor for the Inspectorate of Policing, that Caldwell First Nation is not classified as a municipality under Regulation 135/24 and therefore is not responsible for contributing to the Board’s budget. This differs from information previously received that the Province would cover their cost. Additionally, Pelee Island have not yet remitted their portion of the 2025 budget, as they have indicated that they may exercise their right to arbitration under Section 71(3) of the CSPA, to dispute their share of the budget. The Board is currently facing a \$15,058 shortfall in its 2025 budget.

The matter of Provincial Appointee Remuneration also remains unresolved. As the municipalities have not reached a unanimous agreement on compensation, a formal request must be submitted to the Solicitor General to determine the amount, as required

under Section 7(2) of the Regulation. Administration has proceeded with this request. Until this decision is made, the remuneration line in the budget remains undetermined.

As a result of the ongoing financial uncertainty, the last scheduled meeting for 2025 (November 13, 2025) has been cancelled and there are no plans to schedule meetings in 2026 . This report is being presented to Council to provide an update on the Board's current status and to outline the implications for municipal participation, budgeting, and future planning. The Town remains committed to working with its community partners and the Ministry to support a sustainable and functional governance model for local policing oversight.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

As described above, there is currently a \$15,058 revenue shortfall in the Board's 2025 operating budget. Administration will defer any discretionary expenses to mitigate the year-end deficit. Any deficit resulting from 2025 operations will be recovered through the Board's 2026 budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

Ryan McLeod, Director of Finance and Corporate Services/Treasurer

PREPARED BY:



Natalie Sharp
Supervisor of Municipal Governance/Deputy Clerk

REVIEWED BY:



Angela Toole
Manager of Municipal Governance/Acting Clerk

REVIEWED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Norton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Norton
CAO