

Staff Report to Council

RCMP/Police Services

FILE: 01-0620-03/21

REPORT DATE: November 01, 2021 **MEETING DATE:** November 22, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Supt. Wendy Mehat, Officer In Charge
SUBJECT: 2022 RCMP/Police Services Business Plan

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDATION(S): THAT Council:

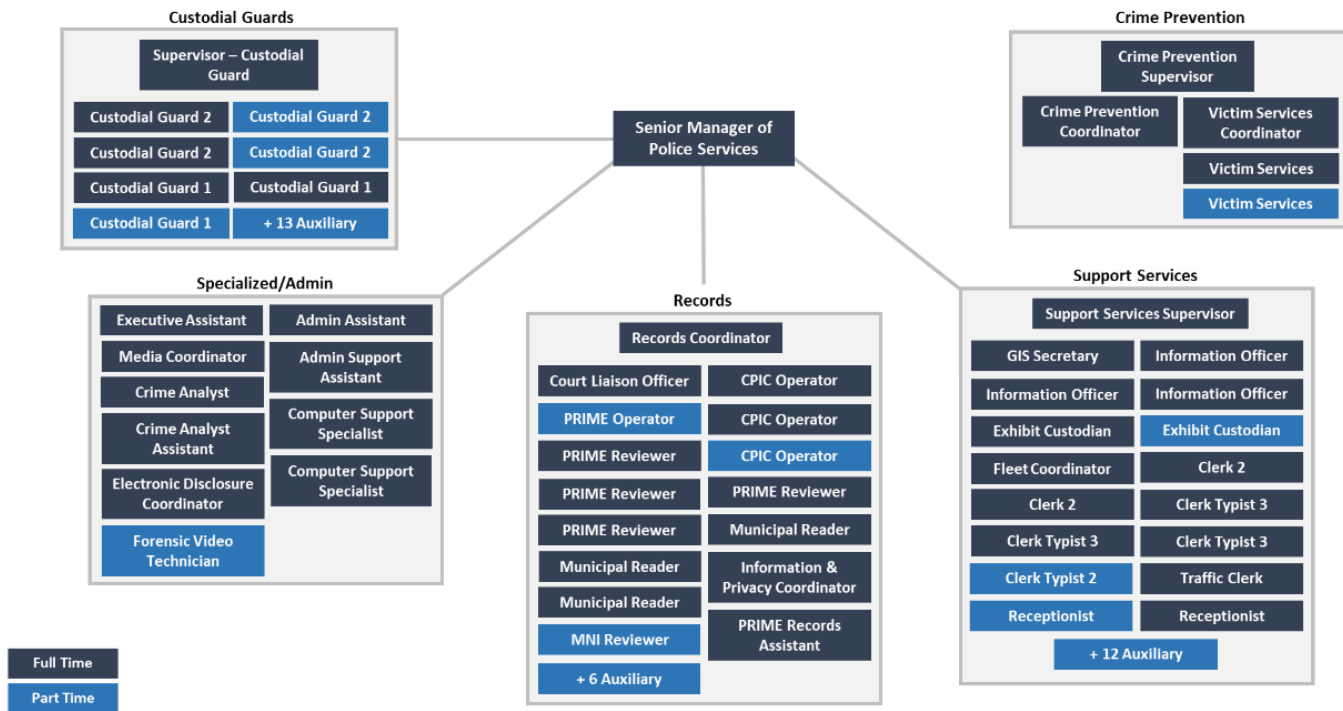
- A. Receive for information the RCMP/Police Services 2022 Draft Business Plan and Staff Report as presented at the November 22, 2021 meeting of Council; OR
- B. Other.

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION OVERVIEW

The City of Pitt Meadows is undergoing a process to potentially transition from the Integrated Detachment model to an autonomous detachment that solely serves Pitt Meadows' citizens. The Province will determine the outcome of the request made by the City of Pitt Meadows and most likely this decision will be made before the end of the year.

Currently the detachment achieves their objectives through a variety of critical partnerships within the community and its citizens and also through community policing and crime prevention programs. The Ridge Meadows RCMP Detachment is proud to provide policing services for Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge and the Katzie First Nation. The detachment is a currently fully integrated model between both cities and operates the hub of operations in Maple Ridge supplemented by a Community Police Office in Pitt Meadows. The Ridge Meadows RCMP has 128 police officers, with 23 assigned to Pitt Meadows, 102 assigned to Maple Ridge and 3 funded by the Province of BC. Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge also contribute the equivalent of 12 members (2 Pitt Meadows and 10 Maple Ridge) in integrated specialized integrated teams serving the Metro Vancouver area. 49.2 (FTE) City of Maple Ridge employees provide operational and administrative support for exhibits, prisoner guarding, client services, records management,

City of Maple Ridge Police Services



2021 Achievements

- **SAFETY – POLICING REVIEW** - The Province requested additional information from the RCMP related to the potential transition to having two (2) autonomous detachments. This report has been forwarded and it is expected that the Province will be providing a response in Q4. If the response provides Pitt Meadows with the authority to become autonomous, we will need to focus on the details in the transition plan for both cities.
- **PITT MEADOWS' MEMBERS WORKING OUT OF THE CPO** – Regular members, including supervisors, have been assigned to consistently work from the CPO starting shifts there. These members are on a one (1) year + rotation.
- **SAFETY – ROAD SAFETY** - The RCMP provided enforcement on speeding/intersections, excessive speeding, as well as impaired driving and distracted driving. We also introduced the Black Cat and Scarecrow initiatives to enhance road safety.

Key Challenges for 2022

- **SEPARATION FROM THE INTEGRATED DETACHMENT MODEL.** Upon Ministerial approval for de-integration, transition to independent detachments will be undertaken and establishing new transitional and operational processes and procedures will be developed.

- **SOCIAL IMPACTS.** Impacts to social services levels are greatly affecting police. The increase in drug addiction, untreated mentally illness and poverty are creating huge volumes of work for police and unnecessary negative pressure with the perception of crime in the community.
- **MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURE OF CRIME & CHANGING TRENDS.** With increased access to our community through infrastructure, offenders cross geographic lines to commit crime. This, along with constant variations in crime trends, crime profile type and severity of criminal activity levels have an impact on criminal activity. Our Crime Analysts, both local and throughout the Lower Mainland, monitor trends, profiles and modus operandi to jointly target offenders in geographical corridors.

Key Initiatives 2022

Strategic Priority	Initiative
Safety	DE-INTEGRATION TRANSITION PLAN & TIMELINE - The current detachment service delivery is integrated with two cities receiving services. If the Province approves Pitt Meadows' request to separate, a transition to 2 autonomous detachments will be necessary resulting in both cities having their own police force.
Safety	IMPLEMENT COMPSTAT MEETINGS - The Detachment's Operational Strategy Meetings (OSS) will be terminated and replaced with the COMPSTAT model which will enable all units to target specific, chronic or problematic crime within the city with the goal of lowering crime stats. The Dashboards will be utilized to identify and target crime trends and ultimately report out the data.
Safety	ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY TOURS - Community Safety Tours will focus communication, education, and safety priorities for the city as they relate to criminal activity. This volunteer group will become more visual within the city limits and will be able to report on issues electronically when they see them.
Safety	DEVELOP EQUITY DIVERSITY & DIVERSION STRATEGIES - The RCMP would like to establish a Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee. This committee will guide the Detachment to deliver bias free policing services and provide an understanding of diverse communities. It will also gather advice from diverse community groups to better respond to community needs.

Safety	ROAD SAFETY – Road Safety members will be active and improve visibility with the city by providing enforcement and education. Initiatives such as Blackcat and Scarecrow will be utilized to improve public safety.
Safety	CREATE A CRIME PREVENTION DASHBOARD - This additional dashboard will enhance the currently available dashboards and provide information on volunteer programs and activities, as well as outline patrols within the city.
Safety	HIGH VISIBILITY POLICING STRATEGIES/PROJECTS - The Detachment will work to enhance high visibility police service delivery in the business districts. Ridge Meadows RCMP will carry on projects C.O.R.E and Blitz. Project C.O.R.E is an intelligence led foot patrol program enacted within each city – to facilitate outreach within the business community and enforcement of criminal, municipal/bylaw offences and motor vehicle offences within downtown Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. Project Blitz pairs RCMP officers with Loss Prevention Officers to work in unison to address retail theft, unwanted patrons, fraud offences aimed at the retail/business community.
Safety	CONTINUED COMMUNICATION WITH MAYOR/COUNCIL - RCMP is to provide formal quarterly updates to Mayor & Council and regular communication meetings with the CAO. On sensitive issues, RCMP will be prepared to attend closed council meetings or provide updates to the CAO and Mayor when necessary and are committed to the Joint Communication Protocol currently in place with the City.
Safety	RCMP DASHBOARD BRANDING - The RCMP would like to advertise and educate the public on the availability of the RCMP Dashboards. The Dashboards are the report cards for police accountability and performance metrics.

1. PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

City of Pitt Meadows
DRAFT Operating Plan
2022 thru 2026

POLICE SERVICES FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2021 Approved Budget	2022 Proposed Budget	Proposed Changes for 2022		2023 Proposed Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	2026 Proposed Budget
Expenses								
RCMP Contract	\$ 4,308,900	\$ 4,626,700	\$ 317,800	7.4%	\$ 4,784,800	\$ 4,972,400	\$ 5,150,700	\$ 5,286,300
Housing and Support	1,268,400	1,311,500	43,100	3.4%	1,343,500	1,371,500	1,406,200	1,442,500
Crimestoppers	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
	5,580,800	5,941,700	360,900	6.5%	6,131,800	6,347,400	6,560,400	6,732,300
Net Operating Expenses	\$5,580,800	\$5,941,700	\$ 360,900	6.5%	\$6,131,800	\$6,347,400	\$6,560,400	\$6,732,300
Key Budget Changes for 2022:								
RCMP Members & Integrated Teams			80,800					
RCMP First Collective Agreement			237,000					
RCMP Housing and Support			43,100					
Change in Net Operating Expenses			\$ 360,900					

2. PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET

None.

3. DECISION PACKAGES

The RCMP/Police Services have submitted 2 Decision Packages to the City of Maple Ridge which would be cost shared via the current Housing and Support Agreement. They include a Disclosure Clerk position which is a provincially mandated change for all police departments as well as a request for a second Court Liaison Officer position as the numbers of Crown submissions vs resources are not adequate. Pitt Meadow's cost share for these positions have been included within the overall proposed tax increase. Please see attachments.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS

Referral ☐ Yes ☒ No

SIGN-OFFS**Written by:**

Maureen Jones
Senior Manager, Police Services

Reviewed by:

Supt. Wendy Mehat
Officer In Charge, Ridge Meadows RCMP

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Decision Package: Disclosure Clerk
- B. Decision Package: Court Liaison Officer

DECISION PACKAGE: RCMP Disclosure Clerk

Role Description	Full-time – City of Maple Ridge Hire As per Housing & Support Agreement the city would be responsible for 20% of the costs	
Department/Division	City of Maple Ridge	
Submitted by	RCMP/Police Services	
Estimated Capital Cost	n/a	Ongoing: n/a
Estimated Operating Cost	One time: \$ n/a	Ongoing: \$17,060

Recommendation

This request has been submitted as a result of the Province of BC mandating all police departments to submit information electronically to Crown. In accordance with the Housing and Support agreement and although the approval for this position ultimately rests with the City of Maple Ridge Council, it is requested that Pitt Meadows City Council support this request.

THAT Council:

- A. Support the request to hire the additional resource necessary to accomplish the provincial mandate.

Executive Summary

The Province of BC has mandated via a binding MOU signed between the Province and all police agencies in BC that disclosure will occur electronically, in a phased in approach for 2022-2023, and will include:

- standard naming convention for all documents/pictures/transcripts/media etc,
- All these documents must be linked within the databank
- tasks created for all documentation.
- Police are required to keep all documents in the native format and convert it to systems that Crown can view/use.
- All vetting must occur in the first instance.

Police agencies will need to provide disclosure to the Provincial Prosecution Service in a thorough and indexed electronic package to the Court as a legal requirement which they indicate is fundamental to the justice system. In a phased in approach, the Province will require the detachment to have positions to handle all police files being submitted to Crown. We are proposing that we hire 1 additional Disclosure Coordinator in Q1 of 2022 to start which will supplement the current position. Depending on the workload and time that it takes to prepare

all these electronic files, we may need to add a 2nd position in mid 2023 to meet the Province's timeline.

Background/Discussion

Modern criminal investigations now include large amounts of information, raw data and electronic media. As well, police investigations have become more complex and employ an array of techniques to gather evidence such as judicial authorizations, lengthy strategic interviews, extensive witness and video canvassing, as well as notebook entries. The final product sent to Crown Counsel is in a PDF case management file which is set up to be searchable.

Financial Implications

As per the current Housing and Support Agreement with the City of Maple Ridge, the city is responsible to pay 20% of support staff salaries/costs.

Alternatives

There are really no other alternatives as this is mandated by the Province to all police agencies.

DECISION PACKAGE: Court Liaison Officer

Role Description	Full-time – City of Maple Ridge Hire As per Housing & Support Agreement the city would be responsible for 20% of the costs	
Department/Division	City of Maple Ridge	
Submitted by	RCMP/Police Services	
Estimated Capital Cost	n/a	Ongoing: n/a
Estimated Operating Cost	One time: \$ n/a	Ongoing: \$18,795

Recommendation

The detachment has been producing high levels of Crown submissions for several years with only 1 position, in comparison to other jurisdictions with the same work load and multiple positions. There is burnout occurring in this role and it is requested that this decision package is supported.

In accordance with the Housing and Support agreement and although the approval for this position ultimately rests with the City of Maple Ridge Council, it is requested that Pitt Meadows City Council support this request.

THAT Council:

- B. Support the submission to hire an additional resource necessary to accomplish the workload.

Executive Summary

Ridge-Meadows RCMP Detachment is a busy detachment and has historically put through significantly more charges than neighboring larger detachments. The volume of these charges has increased the work necessary to put through a successful package to Crown. We also need to physically attend the Provincial Court building in Port Coquitlam twice per week to swear Police Information's (swearing that the information submitted to Crown Counsel is accurate and true). This can take anywhere from 3-5 hours each attendance to accomplish.

Background/Discussion

We currently have one (1) Court Liaison Officer which was converted from a regular member role to a support staff position in 1990 and there have been no increases since then. This role directs investigating officers' court documentation to make sure it meets the evidentiary requirements and is accurate and complete so that a case is not dismissed for technical error or lack of evidence. This role provides the final judgement in approving these reports to Crown Counsel from a quality assurance perspective. The role also liaises with both Federal and Provincial Crown Counsels to facilitate the criminal

case management process.

Ridge-Meadows Detachment year over year puts through higher numbers of cases to Crown Counsel as our neighboring larger detachments do (Coquitlam has twice the RCMP members and Langley has 1.5 more members). These detachments also have more than one resource to perform the work volume as noted in the below chart.

Comparison of cases submitted to Crown Counsel:

2019	Coquitlam (2.5 FTE) 897 (YTD Oct 1)	Langley (2 FTE) 819 (YTD Oct 1)	Ridge-Meadows (1 FTE) 896 (YTD Oct 1)
2020	Coquitlam (2.5 FTE) 1227	Langley (2 FTE) 1195	Ridge-Meadows (1 FTE) 1240
2021	Coquitlam (2.5 FTE) 750 (YTD Sept 1)	Langley (3 FTE) 501 (YTD Sept 1)	Ridge-Meadows (1 FTE) 757 (YTD Sept 1)

**To note, Langley now has 3 full time CLO's as they hired an additional position in 2021.*

Financial Implications

As per the current Housing and Support Agreement with the City of Maple Ridge, the city is responsible to pay 20% of support staff salaries/costs.

Alternatives

Police Services has identified this additional position for several years. We have done everything we can do to create efficiencies and provide support and are at a point that an additional resource is required.