

Staff Report to Council

Title: Ontario Provincial Policy (OPP)
Contract – Enhancement Position

Report Number: -2024-04

Director: Chief Administrative Officer

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Recommendation:

Option 1

That Council direct that a by-law be prepared to enter into a new agreement with the Provincial Government to support an OPP enhancement for a School Resource Officer.

OR

Option 2

That Council take no action and let the existing agreement for an OPP enhancement for a School Resource Officer terminate because of changes to provincial legislation.

Executive Summary:

Recently, the OPP have advised that due to the legislative changes affecting the police services coming into effect April 1, 2024, there is a need to complete a new agreement prior to April 1, if council wishes to keep the enhancement of an additional provincial constable to serve as a school resource officer. The OPP are offering a new contract with three-to-six-year terms, with termination provisions requiring a one-year notice period, at no cost difference.

Strategic Priorities:

C.12-Support community wellness in the Municipality of Kincardine

Financial Considerations:

The OPP have indicated that the cost for a new contract will remain the same as the existing cost, which is budgeted for approximately \$120,000 in 2024.

The term for the existing agreement for the FTE Enhancement was to come to an end April 30, 2025. If Council supports a new agreement, it will have impacts on future municipal budgets based on the term.

Policy:

By-law 2022-086

Context and Background Information:

On March 1, 2024, staff were notified by the Municipal Policing Bureau in the OPP that the changes from the *Police Services Act* to the *Community Safety Policing Act*, which comes into effect as of April 1, 2024, requires a process update to retain the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enhancement for a School Resource Officer.

A new agreement is required by the OPP for this position.

The current contract between Kincardine and the OPP provides the following:

FTE* Enhancements	Classification	Position Description
1.00	Provincial Constable	School Resource Officer

The OPP is requesting that a by-law be passed with signatures completed to retain the FTE Enhancements. The OPP has indicated that terms of three to six years are available, and that agreements will continue to include cancellation provisions of a one year notice period, which is what the current agreement provides.

Council briefly deliberated the financial impact of the position during the 2024 budget, with a request for a report on the position in Q2. Below are the motions considered during the 2024 budget:

- 1/29/24 - 38 Moved By: Bill Stewart Seconded by: Andrea Clarke
That Council remove the School Resource Officer from the current operating budget.
Result: Deferred.
- 1/29/24 - 39 Moved By: Bill Stewart Seconded by: Mike Hinchberger
That this motion be deferred till Q2.
Result: Carried.

Unfortunately, staff were not aware that a new contract would be required by the OPP in order to continue with the enhanced service, so this report is preceding a potential future staff report related to the motions from Council.

It appears that if a new contract is not entered into before April 1, 2024, that Kincardine will no longer be funding an additional constable to serve as a community school resource officer. If this is the direction that Council wishes to proceed with then it appears that no action is required. If Council determines that it would prefer to continue to fund this position then a by-law to support the agreement should be directed to be brought forward at the next meeting of Council.

Consultation Overview:

The Kincardine Police Services Board has recommended and supported the enhancement of service level for Kincardine through the additional constable to fulfill the role of a school resource officer. As Council is aware, the Kincardine Police Services Board will be dissolving upon the formation of the new Joint Police Services Board which will include Kincardine, Brockton, Huron Kinloss, Arran-Elderslie, and South Bruce.

Municipal staff have reached out to officials at the Bluewater District School Board senior staff to ensure that they are aware that uniformed police officers are in the Kincardine District Secondary School and its feeder schools. With the offer of a new contract, municipal staff have inquired as to whether the board has any funding to support the initiative and to confirm if there are any board specific policies related to police in the schools. The school board has confirmed that they do not have specific policies or procedures that guide the work between schools and the police, however, they do have a Police School Protocol for incidences where police may become involved in an investigation. They would be pleased to work with police partners to ensure that they are working collaboratively and ensure that materials align with curriculum and other board policies and procedures. However, there is no funding from the school board to support the School Resource Officer.

Staff have requested information regarding the number of contracts for OPP Enhancements for School Resource Officers within the West Region (e.g. Southwestern Ontario).

Origin:

Email notification from OPP dated March 1, 2024.

Attachments: By-law 2022 - 086

Prepared by: Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier, Chief Administrative Officer

Submitted by: Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier, Chief Administrative Officer