



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: April 20, 2021

From: Sandy Webster, Director of Corporate Initiatives

Subject: **Police Services Update and 2021 Police Services Priorities**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this Police Services update for information; and

THAT Council consider and resolve to adopt the 2021 Police Services Priorities identified by Council and reflected in this report.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster Safety and Well-Being

BACKGROUND

The Police Services department was recently reorganized into the Corporate Initiatives Division and a review of our existing services, inter-governmental contracts, resourcing and budget is underway. The Police Services umbrella includes the RCMP along with the administrative municipal support functions (non-members) in West Kelowna.

Additionally, Council's 2021 Police Services Priorities have been developed with S/Sgt. Duncan Dixon, staff and Council that are outlined in the Discussion section of this report.

From an administrative level, adjusting our contract responsibilities with the City of Kelowna, quantifying the provincial funding shortfalls with continued inadequate RCMP members in West Kelowna and RCMP services provided in Central Okanagan remain priorities for staff to address both in the short and long-term. The City continues to work in partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's office to address the needs in West Kelowna.

Over the past few months, several key administrative accomplishments include:

- Retaining a municipal staff Police Services Supervisor who is supporting our efforts to improve our administrative responsibilities and strengthen our relationships with volunteer and partner organizations locally and in the region;
- Quarterly reporting effective Q1 2021 and annual strategic priority development that aligns Council's Strategic Priorities;

- Review of our shared administrative contract with the City of Kelowna with contract rightsizing and forecasting for the 2022 budget and beyond;
- Supplemental FTE request to add one of two required 24/7 non-emergency telephone call-takers to ensure West Kelowna meets the call centre requirements of a C-level RCMP detachment subject to the 2021 Budget adoption;
- Addition of a second Community On Patrol vehicle (volunteer community policing) to support increased community safety;
- Municipal Police Services staffing review to ensure job descriptions and work plans are aligned to deliver Council's strategic priorities;
- Development of the 2021 Police Services Priorities prior to staff developing an overarching Police Services Strategy for West Kelowna;
- Continued advocacy with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General's office to address the inadequate number of provincial and rural RCMP members in West Kelowna;
- Collaboration with Westbank First Nation as both organizations advocate for increased policing across the Greater Westside (including review of the 'rural' classification);
- Continued budget forecasting of anticipated RCMP union back pay for members in 2022 and beyond;
- Discussions with the Southeast District of 'E' Division and the Kelowna Regional Detachment of the RCMP regarding future infrastructure and resourcing (etc) at a local and regional level; and
- For RCMP operations, the new Community Safety Unit (CSU) has its third of four members trained and implemented, with the fourth FTE member to be filled subject to the adoption of the 2021 budget.

Under the RCMP operations mandate, Council has reviewed the statistics and trends from 2019 through 2020 provided by S/Sgt. Duncan Dixon along with providing a description of the previous RCMP priorities. Subsequently, Council identified Police Services Priorities for 2021 upon which West Kelowna RCMP will work to deliver together with city staff, volunteers and other participatory organizations that support police services.

Continued advocacy for increased police members at the provincial level remains ongoing through joint efforts led by the City with support from our regional RCMP leadership team. Further, staff are developing a West Kelowna Police Services Strategy with the understanding of the policing priorities in Southeast District of "E" Division, the Kelowna Regional Detachment and Westbank First Nation yet is specific to address the needs in West Kelowna.

DISCUSSION

2021 Police Services Priorities

Council's *2021 – 2022 Strategic Priorities* include increasing police services, including adding additional resources required to serve the West Kelowna community.

To support this pillar of Council's *2021 – 2022 Strategic Priorities*, S/Sgt. Dixon and staff developed the following Police Services Priorities with Council categorized under four areas:



**FOSTER SAFETY
AND WELL-BEING**

- **Road Safety**
- **Crime Reduction**
- **Violence in Relationships**
- **Police/Community Relations**

Road Safety

- Front Line Members and Reservists contributing to traffic enforcement to improve road safety.
- Programs to provide enhanced policing: dedicated traffic enforcement days; targeted locations including school zones; distracted driving; improper equipment for inclement weather.

Key Crime Category Statistics – Motor Vehicle Accidents, Immediate Roadside Prohibitions, 24-hour Driving Suspensions, Tickets/Warnings Issued for Speeding Traffic Infractions.

Crime Reduction

- Prevent and reduce the impact of prolific offenders: reduction in property crime; drug offences; theft of auto and related violent offences.
- Prevent and reduce the impact of problem offenders.
- Individual enforcement action related to problem residences.
- Curfew check program.
- Interaction with other agencies (such as Probation and Parole) to ensure effective monitoring and compliance.
- Bait Car Program.
- Joint force operations – participation with other agencies to combat multi-jurisdictional or complex criminal investigations.
- Child Advocacy Centre.

Key Crime Category Statistics – Violent Offences, Assault with Weapon, Break and Enter, Property Offences, Theft from Auto, Theft of Auto, Frauds.

Violence in Relationships

- Prevent and reduce crimes against persons.
- ICAT (High Risk Domestic Violence situations).
- Continued effective responses to domestic related calls for service.
- Mitigation of risk to people involved with high risk domestic violence situations.

Key Crime Category Statistics – Violence in Relationships Charges.

Police/Community Relations

- School Resource Officer.
- Participation in Greater Westside HUB situation table.
- RDCO Crime Prevention programs.
- Involvement and contact with local agencies who provide support to clients in need and crisis.

Qualitative comments and quantitative statistics as appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget requirements beyond the City's 2021 Budget will be identified based on further contract and service level reviews in 2021/2022.

CONCLUSION

Staff continue to develop a current West Kelowna Police Services Strategy and continue with budget forecasting requirements in the months ahead. RCMP operational rightsizing along with seeking greater equity of Provincial policing funding and other factors are under review.

Staff will also ensure that an annual review of the Police Services Priorities of Council be held in the first quarter each year. This will enable the RCMP to fulfil their reporting and operational requirements that best serves the City and the community.

REVIEWED BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Duncan Dixon, S/Sgt West Kelowna RCMP

Kathi Watt, Police Services Supervisor

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No