

## **POLICE FUNDING MODEL – LETTER OF SUPPORT**

### **Issue**

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) is calling on municipalities across Alberta to join in advocating for the Government of Alberta to implement a new, more equitable police funding model.

### **Motion Proposed by Administration**

That Council support the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association's letter to MLA Anderson supporting the implementation of a new, more equitable police funding model.

### **Report, Analysis and Financial Implications**

Under the Police Act, the Alberta government is responsible for providing police services to those municipalities with populations of 5,000 or less, as well as to all municipal districts and counties, at no direct cost to them. The province meets this obligation by contracting the RCMP to police these communities through the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA). Under the PPSA, the province is responsible for 70% of the cost of policing, while the federal government pays 30%. The PPSA also provides police services to Métis settlements, and to First Nations communities where other policing arrangements have not been made.

The most common municipal policing arrangement in Alberta is the use of contract policing. Under this arrangement, the RCMP provides policing services to a municipality through the Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA). Under a MPSA, a proportion of the costs of policing are borne by the federal government, depending on the size of the municipality's population. Okotoks currently pays 90% of the cost with the remaining 10% borne by the federal government.

The province provides funding to municipalities to help meet the costs of policing services through the Municipal Police Assistance Grant (MPAG) Program. All municipalities that pay some or all of the costs of their policing qualify for this program.

The Town of Okotoks population fits in the MPAG threshold of 16,667 to 50,000 and receives a \$100,000 base payment plus \$14.00 per capita (see the attached AUMA backgrounder for additional information).

Although the province provides some support through the MPAG Program, there have been chronic shortfalls in funding as the program has not kept pace with growing populations and increasing crime rates, as shown in the AUMA backgrounder.

The Okotoks detachment houses both municipal and provincial contracted officers. The municipal contracted officers provide service primarily within the borders of Town.

The provincial contracted members provide service primarily outside of Town boundaries. Okotoks is both beneficially and negatively impacted by this arrangement.

The inequitable funding of police services has created a sense of frustration among municipalities in the province for a number of years. AUMA is proposing a number of potential approaches towards resolution as listed in the attached backgrounder.

In order to effect the necessary resolutions, AUMA is proposing a letter writing campaign by supporting municipal Councils.

Okotoks Council has previously supported a similar initiative by the Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) in September of 2016 (see attached letters).

Administration is recommending continued Council support of an equitable funding framework.

### **Strategic Plan Goals**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manage Community Growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provide Strong Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Quality Community Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain Organizational Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Economic Vitality
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote Environmental Stewardship

### **Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements**

n/a

### **Public Engagement/Communication Strategy**

n/a

### **Alternatives for Consideration**

n/a

### **CAO Comments**

I support this campaign. This is one of the major contributors to different policy approaches of the AUMA and AAMDC and ultimately needs to be resolved.

### **Attachment(s)**

1. Draft MLA Letter of Support
2. AUMA Backgrounder
3. AAPG Minister Support Letter dated December 17, 2015
4. AAPG MLA Support Letter dated December 17, 2015

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February 01, 2018