

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Meeting Date: April 14, 2025
Report Code: CR-25-038
Subject: 2025 Court Security and Prisoner Transport

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-038 respecting 2025 Court Security and Prisoner Transport, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authority the Mayor and Clerk to execute a funding agreement with the Province.

Highlights:

- Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program has been confirmed for 2024.
- The City will receive \$420,586 under this program.
- The total cost to the City of Owen Sound for court security and prisoner transportation is budgeted to be \$980,481.
- New in 2025, Grey County is contributing toward the unfunded portion of court security.
- The balance of costs related to Court Security and Prisoner transportation is funded by the City's tax levy.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Safe City.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

None.

Background:

In 2006, the Province, AMO, and the City of Toronto undertook a joint effort – Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review. The final report, *Facing the Future Together*, included two recommendations including:

- a. Phase in an upload of funding from the province to the municipalities of municipal court security and prisoner transportation costs, to a maximum of \$125 million annually, beginning in 2012; and
- b. Undertake the development of court security standards in consultation with policing partners, the judiciary, and other stakeholders.

The City was represented by City Staff at the Court Security Task Force through an appointment by AMO.

Late in 2011, the City Council authorized an agreement with the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services respecting the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program. The program was to begin in 2012 and be phased in over seven years ending in 2018. The maximum provincial total contribution in 2018 was set at 125 million dollars. The original agreement was for a 3-year term and expired in 2014. A second two-year agreement expired in 2016, and a third recently expired in 2018. Since 2018 the funding agreement has been annual.

The City's historical funding was:

2012	\$61 324
2013	\$122 648
2014	\$183 972
2015	\$185,973
2016	\$232,466
2017	\$313,131
2018	\$365,319
2019	\$454,519
2020	\$422,212
2021	\$403,985
2022	\$373,648
2023	\$325,610
2024	\$393,099

The funds will be transferred in four installments in 2025. The 2025 Funding amount is \$420,586 (2024 - \$393,099).

Analysis:

Annual reports for court security costs are submitted as required by the agreement. Total funding for the court security grant remains static, while overall costs across the Province continue to rise, creating an increasing funding shortfall. The overall amount recovered in this grant reflects a gradual return to post-COVID staffing levels.

Financial Implications:

The 2025 Budget, set by the Owen Sound Police Board, reflects a total grant of \$450,000.

Communication Strategy:

The executed funding agreement will be returned to the Ministry.

Consultation:

Police Chief

Attachments:

2025 CSPT Transfer Payment Agreement – Owen Sound C

Recommended by:

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Kate Allan at kallan@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1238.