

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Meeting Date: April 13, 2026
Report Code: CR-26-036
Subject: 2026 Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-036 respecting the 2026 Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a funding agreement with the Province.

Highlights:

- The Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program has been confirmed for 2026.
- The City will receive \$491,287 under this program.
- The total cost to the City of Owen Sound for court security and prisoner transportation is budgeted to be \$1,286,329.
- 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.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Safe City – Contributing to inclusivity and accessibility in our community and participating in initiatives focused on a range of long-term, systemic safety solutions that respond to current and future residents.

Previous Report/Authority:

N/A.

Background:

In 2006, the Province, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (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:

1. 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
2. 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, 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. The original agreement was for a three-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.

Over the past six years, the funding has been as follows:

- 2020 – \$422,212
- 2021 – \$403,985
- 2022 – \$373,648
- 2023 – \$325,610
- 2024 – \$393,099
- 2025 – \$420,586

Funds will be transferred in four instalments in 2026. The 2026 funding amount is \$491,287.

The amount in the 2026 budget for this grant is \$420,000. The difference of \$71,287 will reduce the amount of funding required from Grey County to cover the difference between total costs of the program and provincial funding.

Analysis and Options:

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.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

The 2026 budget, set by the Owen Sound Police Service Board, reflects a total grant of \$420,000.

Human Resources

N/A.

Time and Scheduling

N/A.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the meeting.

The executed funding agreement will be returned to the Ministry.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Police Chief

Attachments:

Correspondence from the Ministry of the Solicitor General

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

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